



City of Costa Mesa
Fire Prevention
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Hazardous Material Identification Signs

Note: This information sheet has been developed as a guide only. For specific requirements refer to the 2010 Edition of the California Fire Code and National Fire Protection Association 704, 2012 Edition.

Scope

This regulation shall apply to all occupancies which use, handle, store, manufacture, or dispense hazardous materials in quantities requiring a permit.

Purpose

This system is intended to provide basic information to fire fighters and other emergency personnel enabling them to more easily determine the severity of hazards and an appropriate course of action.

Description

This sign identifies the hazards of an individual material in terms of three categories; **health** (blue), **flammability** (red), and **reactivity** (yellow). The fourth area (white) is used to indicate special hazards such as; corrosive, oxidizer, water reactive, or radioactive. The severity of the hazard is indicated by using numbers from 0 (no hazard), to 4 (severe hazard).

To identify the hazards of a structure containing several different materials, use the highest hazard number of all of the materials for each category.

How To

To determine the number for the hazard categories you will need a Material Safety Data Sheet for each hazardous material. These can be obtained from your supplier. Some sheets show a diagram of the sign indicating the appropriate numbers. Other sheets will list the hazard numbers as NFPA numbers or as HMIS numbers. If more than one hazard is present, use the highest number from each category of all the hazardous materials.

Placement

The signs should be placed over the entrance to a structure containing the hazards which it identifies. They should be conspicuous and legible from access routes and staging areas. The sign should be at least 15 inches on each edge, with numbers not less than 5 inches high, and letters not less than 4 inches high.

Fire Hazard

- 4 Flash Point below 73°F
- 3 Flash Point below 100°F
- 2 Flash Point below 200°F
- 1 Flash Point above 200°F
- 0 Will not burn

Health Hazard

- 4 Lethal upon exposure
- 3 Extreme danger
- 2 Hazardous
- 1 Slightly hazardous
- 0 Normal material

Reactivity

- 4 May Detonate
- 3 Shock and heat may detonate

- 2 Violent chemical change may occur
- 1 Unstable if heated
- 0 Stable

W

Specials

- OX Oxidizer
- ACID Acid
- ALK Alkali
- COR Corrosive



- Water Reactive
- Radioactive