

Haz-Com

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is the authority governing all occupational safety regulations. OSHA uses the Occupation Safety and Health Act to establish regulations pertinent to occupational safety. OSHA regulations are enforceable as federal laws. Any employer found in violation of any OSHA regulation could be subject to severe penalties including fines, imprisonment or both.

OSHA regulations related to telecommunication work, including CATV installers, are found in OSHA standard 1910.268. Other OSHA regulations pertaining to your work are located in the General Industrial Safety Orders.

While Connect/One can establish policies, provide equipment, conduct safety training, and check to see that safe practices are being followed at the job sites; it is your responsibility to ensure that safety is your first priority in the field. Failure to follow company safety policies and to manage your daily work practices in a safe and professional manner could result in injury or equipment damage. Your failure to comply with these requirements could lead to termination of your employment.

Hazard Communication (Right to Know)

Chemical Awareness - Right to Know

You have the right to know about the chemicals you work with and how to take precautions against any potential negative effects associated with these chemicals. The Hazard Communication (Hazcom) Training Program (Right to Know) is designed to educate the employee on the hazards and the precautions associated with these chemicals.

Why Hazard Communication?

Employees are sometimes injured while using chemicals on the job because they are unaware of the proper safety precautions that should be taken to protect themselves from the harmful chemical effects. Communicating the proper information is therefore important so that employees will know how to work safely with chemicals.

This is primarily accomplished by the procurement and availability of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), which are documents concerning a hazardous chemical, which is prepared by the manufacturer and provided upon request to the user.

Technicians/Employees are responsible for reviewing and understanding the information and adhering to policies and procedures stated in this module.

Definitions	
Chemical	Any element, chemical compound or mixture of elements and/or compounds.
Chemical Name	The scientific designation or name of a chemical, which clearly identifies the chemical for the purpose of conducting a hazard evaluation.
Common (Trade) Name	The name used by the retail distributor who sells hazardous chemicals.
HMIS Label: (Hazardous Material Information System)	Identifies the potential health hazards associated with a specific chemical. The hazard terms listed on the HMIS can have 1 of 4 numbers indicating its severity.
Hazardous Chemical	Any chemical that is a physical hazard or a health hazard.
Hazardous Material	A material that releases hazardous components (e.g. dust vapor, fumes) during operations or processes. Examples are metals and welding rods during welding, metals or concrete during cutting, and exhaust fumes.
Label	Any written, printed or graphic material displayed on or affixed to containers of hazardous chemicals.
NFPA Diamond	A hazard warning labeling system that rates the hazard severity according to a numbered system. Zero (0) means no hazard and three (3) means the most severe hazard. The bottom section of the label is also used for other hazards, such as not to mix with water. (See example in this section).
Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)	Document concerning a hazardous chemical, which is prepared by the manufacturer and provided upon request to the user.

Procedure

When hazardous chemicals or materials are received, the Area Safety Manager (ASM) will obtain material safety data sheets (MSDS) for each item. MSDSs can be requested from the supplier, distributor or manufacturer. Contact your Area Safety Manager (ASM) should you have a problem obtaining an MSDS.

- MSDS will be kept in an accessible location for employees. (Example: tech rooms, lunchrooms, near eye wash stations etc.)
- MSDS must be readily accessible during each work shift to employees when they are in their work area(s). Therefore, technicians working in the field must be provided copies of MSDSs for chemicals they will use at the job site. These MSDSs can be kept at the dispatcher's office.
- Prior to the initial use of a chemical or material, employees will familiarize themselves with the precautions needed to work safely with these chemicals and materials by reviewing applicable material safety data sheets.
- Employees must contact their regional Area Safety Manager and/or supervisor before engaging in any non-routine task(s) requiring the use of a chemical.
- Employees shall follow the safety precautions on the MSDS, including, but not limited, to proper use of personal protective equipment, proper storage, and proper disposal.
- If respiratory protection is needed, the employee must notify his or her supervisor.
- Employees will not remove or deface any labels on hazardous chemicals/materials.
- If a hazardous chemical is transferred to a secondary container, the employee will properly label the secondary container in accordance with labeling system discussed in this section. Use of unlabeled secondary containers is prohibited to prevent the misuse or inadvertent application of a hazardous chemical.

Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

Injuries resulting from chemical exposure can largely be attributed to their improper use and storage. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are chemical fact sheets that provide technical information about a chemical. Different manufacturers may arrange MSDSs differently, but they all contain the same basic information. A MSDS must contain:

- The chemical or common name
- Physical and chemical characteristics (e.g., vapor pressure, flashpoint, etc.)
- Physical hazards associated (e.g., potential for explosion, fire, reactivity)
- Health hazard including symptoms, common routes of entry, the permissible limit to the exposure, etc.
- Precautions for safe handling
- Spill or leak procedures including proper disposal
- Applicable control methods (e.g., work practices, protective equipment, engineering control, etc.)
- Emergency and first aid procedures
- Manufacturer's name, address, and phone number

An MSDS must be obtained for all new products brought into the facility. The MSDS is good for each product name and not just for each chemical. MSDSs must be readily available to those workers whose job function involves the use and/or potential contact of a hazardous chemical.

You should always check the MSDS for any chemical that you use, especially if you are unsure of the hazards of that chemical. MSDSs are available through your supervisor.

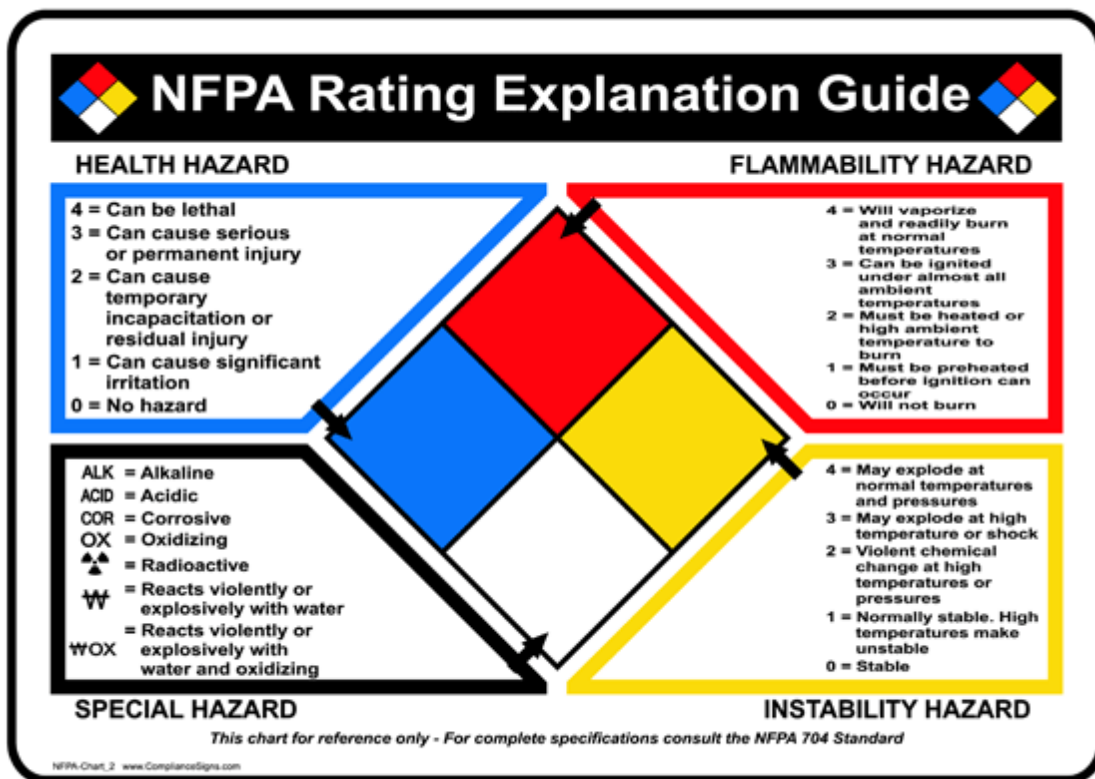
Labeling System

All chemical containers must have a label properly identifying the chemical. The label must contain the following information:

- Name of chemical
- Hazard warnings
- Name and address of the chemical manufacturer, distributor, or other responsible party

NFPA Chemical Hazard Label

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed a system for indicating the health, flammability, and reactivity hazards of chemicals. In addition, a special precaution symbol may be used where necessary. The figure below shows the NFPA Chemical Hazard Label:



Hazardous Materials Identification Systems Label (HMIS)

Another frequently used marking system is the Hazardous Material Identification System (HMIS). The identity of the chemical is shown at the top of the label. Colored bars indicate the hazards: red for flammability, yellow for reactivity, and blue for health. The degree of hazard is expressed using the same numeric coding as described for the NFPA Chemical Hazard Label.

A white bar at the bottom contains a letter for the personal protective devices that must be used when handling the chemical. The figure below shows an example of a HMIS label for methanol. The table on the next page is a listing of the possible letters that can be displayed in the Personal Protection block.

Chemical Name	
HEALTH	0
FLAMMABILITY	0
PHYSICAL HAZARD	0
PERSONAL PROTECTION	0