

DEFINITIONS

Corrosive: A chemical, (solid, liquid, gas), that can cause destructive damage to body tissues at the site of contact. It can cause severe burns to the skin and can “eat through” clothing, metal and other materials.

Flammable: Can be ignited at almost any temperature. And can react with oxides (gases or acids) without warning.

Irritant: Causes soreness or inflammation of the skin, eyes, mucous membranes or respiratory system.

Oxidizer: An unstable chemical that can suddenly react with flammables and release oxygen.

Toxic: May cause injury or death upon ingestion (eating/drinking), absorption (touching) or inhalation (breathing into lungs).

HAZMAT “Hazardous Materials”

HAZMAT is any substance which may pose an unreasonable risk to health and safety of operating or emergency personnel, the public, and/or the environment if not properly controlled during handling, storage, manufacture, processing, packaging, use, disposal, or transportation.

Many products which we encounter on a daily basis can be hazardous to our health if we come into contact with them often or for too long.



Hazardous materials can be silent killers. Almost every household and workplace has varying amounts of chemicals that, if spilled or combined, will cause great harm and even death. It is important that you have a basic knowledge of how to recognize these chemicals, where they may be found and what to do or not to do.

Remember, hazardous materials in the home and workplace should be kept apart and stored in well-marked, unbreakable containers. They should also be stored in a low cabinet with a latch that is not easily opened. Dispose of any hazardous materials that are no longer needed.

In order to avoid any damage to human beings and the environment, it is essential to deal with hazardous materials efficiently as well as collect all relevant information about them.



Dangers in Transport



Substances and materials which are dangerous for transport range from those which present obvious risks, such as explosives and corrosive acids, through to more frequently encountered products such as paints, solvents and pesticides.

The transport of dangerous goods is regulated in order to prevent, as far as possible, accidents involving people or property, damage to the environment, to the means of transport employed or to other goods being transported. Each mode of transport, (air, sea, road, rail and inland waterways), all have regulations that fit that specific mode of transportation, yet they all share the same signage to describe and warn others of the hazardous materials.



Office of Homeland Security &
Emergency Management
330-297-3607

Board of County Commissioners
Kathleen Chandler, President
Maureen T. Frederick, Vice President
Tommie Jo Marsilio, Board Member

Be Aware of Common HAZMAT Symbols Near YOU!



HAZMAT can be classified as follows:

Explosives- They are said to be the materials with great degree of hazard and can cause severe destruction to human beings, property and nature. Some of the examples of explosives are blasting agents, highly insensitive explosives, fire hazard explosives and many others.

Flammable Liquids- Flammable liquids are highly dangerous materials which can result in a disaster within seconds such as- diesel, carbon disulfide, gasoline, petrol, kerosene, etc.

Gases- Different gases such as hydrogen, chlorine, acetylene, fluorine, hydrogen cyanide, etc. are poisonous and can cause breathing problems if inhaled during an explosion or in any household product (cleaning products, pesticides, etc.). Excess inhalation of these gases can also cause death.

There has been significant increase in the use of hazardous materials; so anything can happen anytime. Dangerous goods can get spilled any time in big business houses or at somebody's residence. Leaking of oil from an oil tank is equally dangerous in a business house or at someone's home. This can pose threat to mankind and nature. Therefore, in such cases the need for environmental cleanup services arises.

What's that tank car or truck carrying?

Placards are a diamond shaped hazardous material information source for emergency responders, railroad employees and others. A placard provides the viewer with a variety of information through several different methods.



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| Red | Flammable |
| Green | Nonflammable |
| Yellow | Oxidizer |
| Blue | Dangerous when wet |
| White | Inhalation hazard and poison |
| Black & White | Corrosive (acid/caustic) |
| Red & White | Flammable solid/Spontaneously combustible |
| White & Yellow | Radiation/Radioactive |
| Orange | Explosives |
| White with Black Stripes | Miscellaneous hazardous materials |
| Another Red placard | "DANGEROUS" |

Portage Prepares is a county education program for preparing Portage County communities to meet the challenges of emergencies and/or disasters in order to be safe and reduce injury. Portage Prepares is a program of the Portage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and its Advisory Committee under the guidance of the Portage County Board of Commissioners. For additional information on emergency preparedness, go to our website at: www.co.portage.oh.us/portageprep/ or follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/PortagePrepares or follow us on Twitter @PortagePrep.