



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

As a music fan, there always seems to be a song that fits things that come up in life. An old Tesla tune is playing, and unfortunately stuck in my head, for this topic:

"Signs Signs - Everywhere there's signs ...

Do this, don't do that

Can't you read the sign"

So here is some information to help you better understand the meanings of various safety signs and symbols when you encounter them in the workplace.

DANGER signs indicate an immediate threat of death or serious injury. Special precautions are necessary. Danger is indicated by the color **red**. Red is also used for fire protection equipment and to mean STOP (as with emergency stop button & switches).

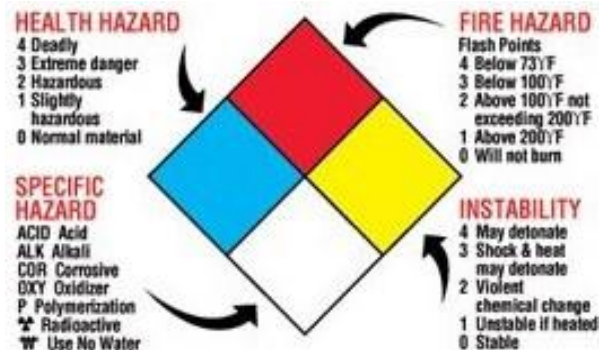
CAUTION signs warn against potential hazards which proper precaution should be taken; used in minor hazard situations where there is a lesser threat of employee injury. Caution is designated by the color **yellow**. Yellow is also used for marking physical hazards such as striking against, falling, tripping, & caught in between.

Biological hazard symbols signifies the actual or potential presence of a biohazard, meaning an infectious agent presenting a risk of death, injury or illness to employees. Used to identify equipment, containers, rooms, materials, experimental animals, or combination, which contain, or are contaminated with, viable hazardous agents.



National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA)

Diamond - these ratings for chemicals are more geared towards firefighting and less towards personnel risk when working with the chemicals.



Hazardous Materials Identification System

(HMIS) Rectangle – more for employees, identifying the personal risks associated in working with chemicals and identifying the PPE that should be utilized.

HEALTH	*	2
FLAMMABILITY		3
REACTIVITY		0
PERSONAL PROTECTION H		

Both above use ratings 0 to 4, with 0 being minimal hazard & 4 being severe hazard.

Globally Harmonized System – found on chemical labels and safety data sheets (SDS).

	Explosion bomb (for explosion or reactivity hazards)		Flame (for fire hazards)		Flame over circle (for oxidizing hazards)
	Gas cylinder (for gases under pressure)		Corrosion (for corrosive damage to metals, as well as skin, eyes)		Skull and Crossbones (can cause death or toxicity with short exposure to small amounts)
	Health hazard (may cause or suspected of causing serious health effects)		Exclamation mark (may cause less serious health effects or damage the ozone layer*)		Environment* (may cause damage to the aquatic environment)

For more info contact:

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Risk Mgmt./Loss Control

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Sources:

- [29 CFR 1910.144-145](https://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/29-cfr-1910-144-145)
- <https://www.graphicproducts.com/articles/five-ways-to-meet-osa-requirements-for-safety-signage/>
- <https://www.ehs.msstate.edu/pdfs/chemical.pdf>