

SUMMER 2014

Implementing the Globally Harmonized System (GHS)

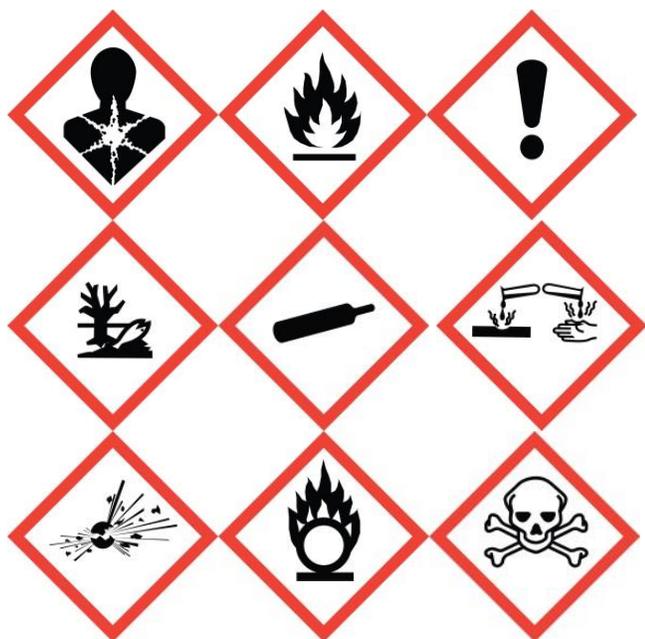
Hazard Communication (HazCom) came into effect in 1983 so that workers would have a "right to know" about chemicals at work. Required program components that remain in effect are: a written program, adequate labeling, employee access to information without barriers, an annually updated chemical inventory, and worker training.

The United States adopted GHS in May 2012. Canada is reviewing it for incorporation into their national standard called WHMIS. There are currently NO PLANS to revise either the National Fire Protection Association diamond or the U.S. Department of Transportation labels and placards. In Oklahoma, safety rules for public employers require annual HazCom training for those who work with chemicals.

By now, most workplaces have implemented training for employees on the new GHS label elements, pictograms, and the new Safety Data Sheet (SDS) format. The new label elements include pictogram symbols that convey health, physical or environmental hazards.

Pictograms: There are nine (9) GHS pictograms for Health, Physical and Environmental Hazards that must be covered in training.

Can you match these to their description?



Health Hazard	Flame	Exclamation Mark
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carcinogen • Mutagenicity • Reproductive Toxin • Respiratory Sensitizer • Target Organ Toxicity • Aspiration Toxicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammable • Pyrophoric • Self-Heating • Emits Flammable Gas • Self-Reactive • Organic Peroxide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritant (skin and eye) • Skin Sensitizer • Acute Toxicity (harmful) • Narcotic Effects • Respiratory Tract Irritant • Hazardous - Ozone Layer
Gas Cylinder	Corrosion	Explosive Bomb
Gases Under Pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin Corrosion • Skin Burns • Eye Damage • Corrosive to Metals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explosive • Self-Reactive • Organic Peroxide
Flame Over Circle	Environment (non-mandatory)	Skull/Crossbones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxidizers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Toxicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Toxicity (Fatal or Toxic)

A Campus Safety Newsletter for Oklahoma's Higher Education Institutions

Signal Words: There are only two signal words: "DANGER" for the more severe hazards and "WARNING" for the less severe hazards. Only one signal word that corresponds to the class of the most severe hazard should be found on a label.

Hazard Statements: These are now standardized and describe the hazard(s) as determined by the hazard classification. Each GHS hazard will have an appropriate statement.

Precautionary Statements: These briefly provide the protective measures needed to reduce or prevent adverse effects from the product's hazards. This can also include first aid instructions.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS): New SDSs will have 16 sections. After updating your inventory, several training sources have suggested keeping the new SDSs separate from the old MSDSs during the transition.

Other Considerations: On the new labels, the following areas will be located together: GHS Pictogram, signal word, and hazard statement.

Implementation is being phased in over several years with full compliance expected by June 1, 2016.

This simple checklist will help to ensure that you are in compliance with the standard:

- Obtained a copy of the standard.
- Read and understood the requirements.
- Assigned responsibility for tasks.
- Prepared an inventory of chemicals.
- Ensured that containers are labeled.
- Obtained SDSs for each chemical.
- Prepared written program.
- Made SDSs available to workers.
- Conducted training for workers.
- Established procedures to maintain current program.
- Established procedures to evaluate program effectiveness, including maintenance of SDSs.

For more information see:

<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/index.html>

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3695.pdf>

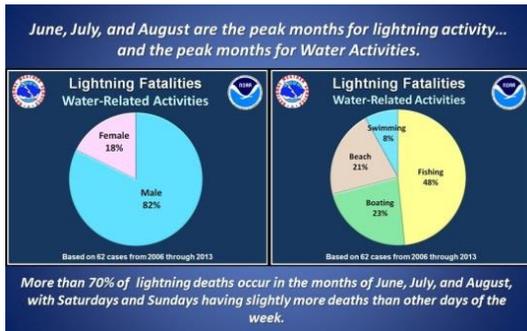


Is your home as safe as it could be?

It's been my pleasure to know the gentleman in this news story for many years. Wes has incorporated several unique safety and preparedness precautions into his home that most people have probably never considered. See the article and short video about his inspired safety measures at the link:

<http://www.connecttristates.com/news/story.aspx?id=1023880>

Lightning Safety



Although *Lightning Safety Week* has just passed, the months with the greatest hazard are June, July and August. There is a myth that golfers are at the most risk, but it is fishing and other water related activities that are the riskiest during storms. Of the sports related deaths, soccer has more than golfing.

Most lightning victims can survive a lightning strike; however, medical attention may be needed immediately. Call for medical help. **Victims do not carry an electrical charge.**

In many cases, CPR or an AED may be needed to revive them. Rescuers should continue to monitor the victim until medical help arrives and, if possible, move the victim to a safer place away from the threat of another lightning strike.

Anyone who works or spends their leisure time outdoors should be reminded what to do if lightning is approaching and how to recognize if they are a target. NOAA offers an incredibly large amount of resources at their webpage, including tips for indoors, outdoor workers, sports, lifeguards, large venues, and much more at: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/safety.htm>

Personal Protective Equipment for Women

Improperly-fitting equipment can also detract from a woman's ability to do her job. It may lead to:

- Less efficient work (e.g., over-sized gloves may cause a worker to grasp a tool tighter than she should in order to get a good grip),
- Slower work (muscular fatigue and frequent readjustments of gloves can slow a worker down),
- Greater number of errors, and
- Difficulty in doing certain tasks (e.g., jobs requiring fine, detailed movements).

A publication developed by the Industrial Accident Prevention Association and the Ontario Women's Directorate in 2006 offers tips for women workers looking for personal protective equipment that fits.

- **Earplugs** – Disposable, foam earplugs are more likely to fit women who have smaller ear canals.
- **Hard hats** – Adding a chin strap can help hard hats or caps fit better and not fall off.
- **Safety goggles** – Beware of goggles that state "one size fits all" – some may be too large for a woman's face and could allow objects, fluids or other hazardous materials to enter through gaps in the seals.
- **Protective clothing** – Taking a man's garment and modifying it to fit a woman, such as rolling up sleeves or pant legs, can be dangerous due to excess material becoming caught in machinery.
- **Safety gloves** – Ensure all exposed skin is covered; the gloves allow for a safe grip so tools will not easily slip out of the hands; and the finger length, width and palm circumference of the gloves match those of the hands.

http://ehstoday.com/site-files/ehstoday.com/files/archive/ehstoday.com/images/ISEA_April.pdf
<http://elcosh.org/record/document/1198/d001110.pdf>

July is UV Safety Month



The skin is the body's largest organ. It protects against cold, heat, sunlight, injury, and infection. Yet, some of us don't consider the necessity of protecting the skin from overexposure to the sun. Find out your UV IQ by visiting: www.FOH.hhs.gov/UVIQ to learn more and take their interactive quiz about protecting yourself from the sun's UV rays.

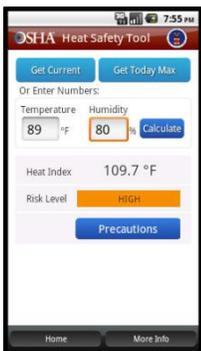
Have You Visited PoolSafely.Gov?



There is now a one-stop shop for pool safety. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that each year nearly 300 children younger than five drown in swimming pools and spas and more than 3,200 children that age go to hospital emergency rooms due to submersion injuries in pools and spas. Take the Pool Safely Pledge and then check out all of the educational resources:

<http://www.poolsafely.gov/pledge/>

Heat Safety Tool APP from OSHA



This APP allows workers and supervisors to calculate the heat index for their worksite, and, based on the heat index, displays a risk level to outdoor workers. Then, with a simple "click," receive reminders about the protective measures that should be taken at that risk level to protect workers from heat-related illness; e.g., drinking enough fluids, scheduling rest breaks, planning for and knowing what to do in an emergency, adjusting work operations, gradually building up the workload for new workers, training on heat illness signs and symptoms, and monitoring each other for signs and symptoms of heat-related illness.

For more information about safety while working in the heat, see OSHA's heat illness webpage, including new online guidance about using the heat index to protect workers. The APP is available for Apple, Android and Blackberry devices.

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/index.html>

https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness/heat_index/index.html

