



GHS Hazard Communication

According to the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) revised Hazard Communication Standard (HCS), employees must have the training to protect themselves from chemical hazards in the workplace.

Among injuries that may occur from exposure to hazardous chemicals are heart ailments, central nervous system damage, organ ailments, sterility, cancer, burns and rashes. Some chemicals also may be safety hazards with the potential to cause fires and explosions.

Safety Steps

- Maintain a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each chemical.
- Ensure this information is accessible to all workers at all times. It must be printed in English and additional languages as an extra precaution.
- Train employees how to interpret labels and to use the SDS to understand the risks of each hazardous chemical being used.
- Follow manufacturers' SDS directions for handling hazardous chemicals.
- Follow a written spill-control procedure as part of an overall safety plan.
- Store and transport chemicals safely and securely; dispose of hazardous chemicals properly.
- Employers are responsible for the wearing of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Limit workers' exposure; stay upwind of hazardous chemicals.

Workers Must Be Trained to Recognize:

- **Product identifier:** the chemical name, code number or batch number; this information must be on the label and in Section 1 of the SDS.
- **Signal word:** indicates the relative level of severity of hazard and alerts reader to a potential hazard. Only two signal words are used: “Warning” (for less severe hazards) and “Danger” (for the more severe hazards).
- **Hazard statement(s):** describe the nature of the chemical’s hazard, including, where appropriate, the degree of hazard.
- **Precautionary statement(s):** a phrase that describes recommended measures that should be taken to minimize or prevent adverse effects resulting from exposure to a hazardous chemical or improper storage or handling.
- **Contact info:** Name, address and phone number of the chemical manufacturer, distributor or importer.
- **Pictogram:** OSHA designates 9 pictograms under this standard for application to a hazard category:



Health Hazard



Flame



Exclamation Mark



Gas Cylinder



Corrosion



Exploding Bomb



Environment



Skull & Crossbones



Flame Over Circle

Safety tips developed based on generally accepted safety standards believed to be reliable at the date of publication. Information is for general guidance only and should not be relied upon for legal compliance purposes.

Founded in 1925, CopperPoint Insurance Companies is a western-based super regional commercial insurance company and a leading provider of workers’ compensation and commercial insurance solutions. With an expanded line of insurance products and a growing 10 state footprint in the western United States, CopperPoint is in a strong position to meet the evolving needs of our brokers, agents and customers.

The company has \$4.8 billion in total assets and an enterprise surplus of \$1.4 billion. The CopperPoint Family of Insurance Companies include CopperPoint, Alaska National and PacificComp. All companies are rated A (Excellent) by AM Best.