SAFETY SIGNAGE

National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) & Hazardous Material Identification System (HMIS)

Differences:
- The NFPA Diamond is designed to aid firefighters and emergency responders by identifying hazardous materials.
- The HMIS is designed to convey health warning information to employees.
- The white section of the NFPA diamond is reserved for “Specific Hazards”
- The white section of the HMIS is reserved for PPE precautions.

NFPA DIAMOND

HEALTH HAZARD
4 Too dangerous to enter, vapor or liquid.
3 Extremely dangerous, use full protective clothing.
2 Hazardous, use breathing apparatus.
1 Slightly hazardous
0 Like ordinary material

FLAMMABILITY
4 Extremely flammable.
3 Ignites at normal temperatures.
2 Ignites when moderately heated.
1 Must be preheated to burn.
0 Will not burn.

REACTION / INSTABILITY
4 May detonate, vacate area if exposed to fire.
3 Strong shock or heat may detonate.
2 Violent chemical change possible.
1 Unstable if heated.
0 Normally stable.

SPECIFIC HAZARD
Oxidizer OXY
Acid ACID
Alkali ALK
Corrosive COR
Use No Water W
Radiation Hazard ▲

The Color of the sign:
- Most signs are color coordinated, with each color representing a specific type of warning.
- When selecting a safety sign, be sure that the color of the sign follows these rules:

DANGER
Red indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.

WARNING
Orange indicates a potentially hazardous situation that could result in death or serious injury.

CAUTION
Yellow indicates a potentially hazardous situation which may result in minor or moderate injury.

EMERGENCY
Green is used for the identification of safety equipment, first aid, or emergency egress locations.

NOTICE
Blue is the color used to communicate safety information.

Common Occupational Safety Signage found throughout the University:
- Take time to assess the signage found in your facility. Are hazards and safety equipment properly represented by a sign?
- Look at all tasks, machinery, and projects at your facility to determine if you have effective hazard signage.