



IMCOM Safety Gram

ARMY SAFE IS ARMY STRONG



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Read and Heed Chemical Information

The more you learn about the chemicals you work with, the better your chances of preventing an accident and protecting yourself. Pay attention to your workplace training programs on chemical safety, and read the labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

Follow this checklist for chemical safety:

- ◆ Obtain training for the chemicals in your work area. Do not handle chemicals unless you are trained and authorized to do so.
- ◆ Read the labels on chemical containers. These will provide important information on the hazards and how to avoid exposure. Labels will also tell you what to do in an emergency. A label will tell you if the chemical can cause injury or death, whether it is a fire or health hazard and whether it reacts violently to other substances.
- ◆ Read the Material Safety Data Sheets for workplace chemicals. This information sheet will give you in-depth information about the hazards and how to protect yourself.
- ◆ Follow the manufacturer's instructions and your workplace training for chemicals.
- ◆ Wear the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Depending on the chemical involved, this could include safety goggles, head protection, rubber or vinyl gloves, an apron, safety footwear and respiratory protection.
- ◆ You need expert help in choosing and fitting protective equipment. It should be made of certain materials to match certain chemical hazards. Respirators must be chosen for a particular hazard and fitted so they can protect you adequately.
- ◆ Maintain this protective gear so it can continue to protect you. Check for rips in fabric and damaged fasteners. Make sure the equipment is in good shape before each wearing.
- ◆ Learn the procedures for removing and disposing of contaminated clothing.
- ◆ Close chemical containers when not in use. Make sure all containers are labeled.
- ◆ Store chemicals according to the manufacturer's instructions. Maintain adequate ventilation. Keep them away from all sources of ignition. Keep incompatible materials away from each other.
- ◆ Know what to do in case of an emergency. Know what emergency numbers to call, where to locate the MSDS and how to evacuate the area. Learn how to clean up spills and fight small fires – if you are authorized to do so. Familiarize yourself with safety showers and eyewashes in case of chemical exposure.
- ◆ Keep beverages, food and cigarettes out of the work area. Wash before eating, drinking, smoking or using the toilet.

Never take chemicals for granted. They can cause immediate injury or death, serious health hazards, fires and explosions. Learn all you can to handle them safely and protect yourself.

