

April SAFETY TOOLBOX



## **MONTHLY SAFETY AWARENESS DISCUSSION GUIDE**

### ***Hazard Communication***

#### **Introductory Comments**

Hazard Communication also referred to as “HAZCOM” was developed to ensure that employers provide employees with important safety information about chemicals used in the workplace. Its purpose is to ensure that employers and employees can quickly identify the hazards associated with a chemical and know what protective action to take. The Hazard Communication Standard will provide a common and coherent approach to classifying and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

#### **Instructions:**

Use this Safety Toolbox Talk to spark discussion within the employee group. Test knowledge retention with the associated quiz.

#### **Meeting Starter Questions**

- What is Hazard Communication?
- What are Safety Data Sheets?
- What is considered Hazardous Chemical?

#### **Critical Safety Points**

#### **Categories of the Hazard Communication Standard:**

- Hazard Classification
- Written Hazard Communication Program
- Labels
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS)
- Training

**Hazard Classification:** Provides specific criteria for classification of health and physical hazards, as well as classification of mixtures.

**Written Hazard Communication Program:** The Hazard Communication Program requires employers to fully document the actions taken to comply with all the provisions of the Hazard

Communication Standards, a copy of the written program must be made available, upon request, to all employees and OSHA Officials.

**Labels:** Chemical manufacturers and importers are required to provide a label that includes a signal word, pictogram, and hazard statement for each hazard class and category. Precautionary statements must also be provided.

- **Signal Word:** is used to indicate the relative level of severity of hazard. DANGER is used for more severe hazards and WARNING is used for less severe hazards.
- **Pictogram:** is a symbol plus other graphic elements to convey specific hazard information.
- **Hazard Statement:** describes the nature and degree of the hazards.

**Safety Data Sheets:** Includes information such as properties of each chemical; the physical, health, and environmental health hazards; protective measures; and safety precautions for handling, storing, and transporting the chemical. All the information on the SDS must be available to employees working with or near the hazardous chemical. The SDSs are presented in a consistent user-friendly, 16-section format.

**Training:** Employers are required to provide employees with effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new physical or health hazard is introduced into the area. The training must include methods and observations used to detect the presence or release of the chemical, physical and health hazards, protective measures, labeling and explanation of the SDS.

**Pictogram:** The Hazard Communication Standard requires pictograms on labels to alert users of the chemical hazards to which they may be exposed. Each pictogram consists of a symbol on a white background framed with a red border and represents a distinct hazards. The pictogram on the label is determined by the chemical hazard classification.

**Hazardous Chemicals:** Is a chemical that has properties with the potential to do harm to human or animal health, the environment, or capable of damaging property. Hazardous Chemicals are categorized as:

- Flammable or Explosive
- Irritating or Corrosive to skin, lungs, and eyes
- Toxic Chemicals such as carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, cyanide.



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Employee Name:	Signature:
Division:	Date:
Instructor:	Score:

## ***Hazard Communication***

**Question 1:** Hazard Communication is to ensure that employers provide employees with important safety information about chemicals used in the workplace.

TRUE       FALSE

**Question 2:** All the information on the SDS must be available to employees working with or near the hazardous chemical.

TRUE       FALSE

**Question 3:** Pictogram consists of a symbol on a white background framed with a red border and represents a distinct hazard.

TRUE       FALSE

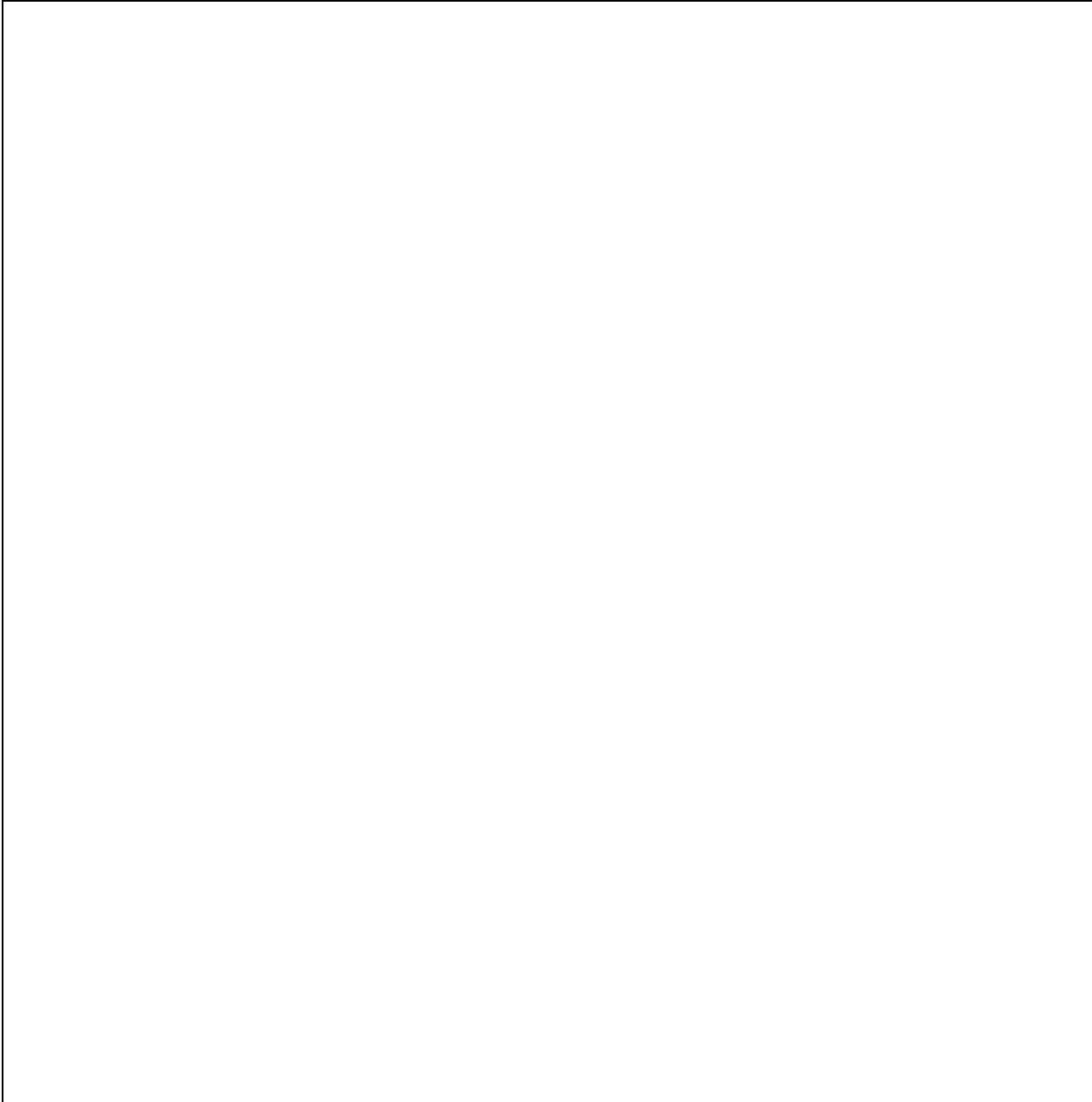
**Question 4:** Hazardous Chemical is a chemical that has properties with the potential to do harm to human or animal health, the environment, or capable of damaging property.

TRUE       FALSE

### **Quiz Answer Key:**

1. TRUE
2. TRUE
3. TRUE
4. TRUE





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