



1



2

Learning objectives

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3

Bhopal,
India



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4

'LIVING DEATH' VICTIMS

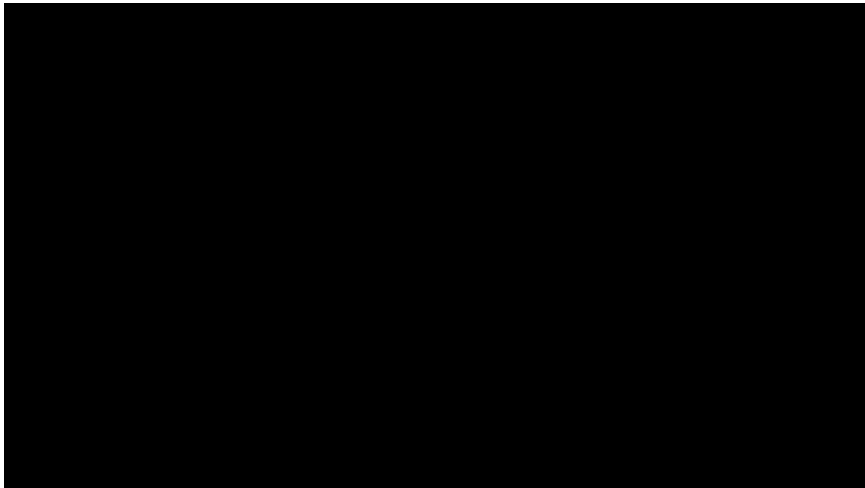


Radium Girls

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5



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6

Unknown exposures

With industrial-scale use of chemicals not fully understood, and the production of new chemicals, workers were continuously exposed to chemicals with detrimental effects on their health

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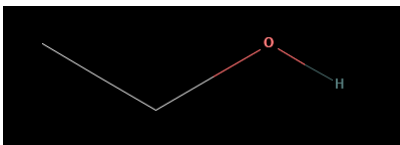


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Unknown hazards

Ethyl Alcohol

$\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$



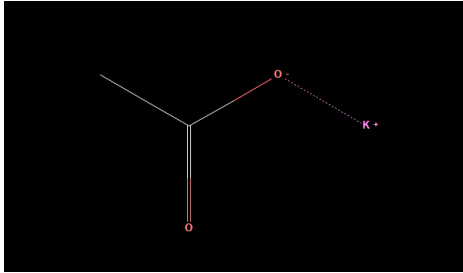
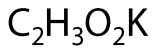
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Unknown hazards

Potassium acetate



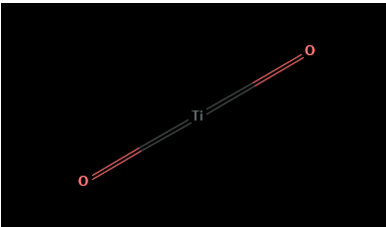
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Unknown hazards

Titanium dioxide

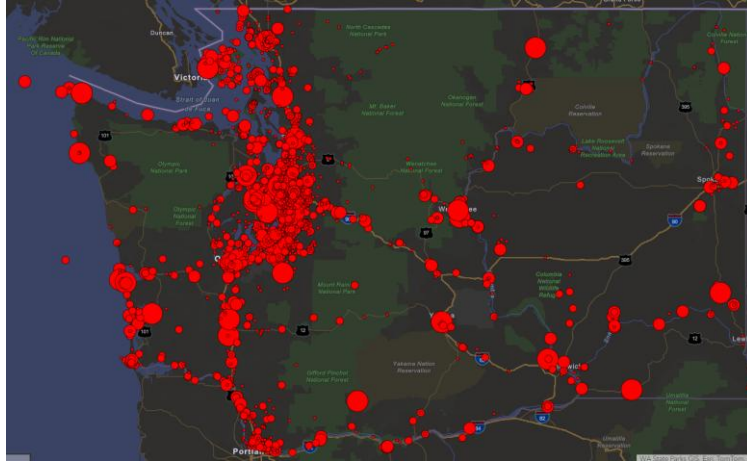


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Environmental impact of mis-handling



Washington Department of Ecology: Reported Spills to Water Map

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L&I top 10 rule violations

Rule	Resources
1 Accident Prevention Program (APP) - Construction WAC 296-155-110	Accident Prevention Program (APP)
2 Fall Protection at Ten Feet or More & Training WAC 296-880-10020	Falls (From Heights)
3 Safety Committees and Safety Meetings WAC 296-800-130	Safety Meetings and Committees
4 Chemical Hazard Communication WAC 296-901-140	Chemical Safety Basics

from Oct. 2023 — Sept. 2024 (Federal Fiscal Year 2024)

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Safer employees

Chemical-related injuries and illnesses are preventable.

Informing employees about chemicals enables them to make good decisions about necessary precautions within their workplace.

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Term breakdown

Hazardous chemical

- Any chemical which is classified as a physical hazard or a health hazard, a simple asphyxiant, combustible dust, pyrophoric gas, or hazard not otherwise classified



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Term breakdown

Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

- a detailed document, created by a chemical's manufacturer, that provides comprehensive information about the substance's hazards, safe handling and storage, emergency procedures and disposal

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Term breakdown

International Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)

- an internationally recognized system that provides standardized criteria for classifying chemical hazards and communicating them through consistent labels and SDSs

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Chemical hazard communication in WA

OSHA's hazard communication standard passed in 1983, Washington state followed with same in 1984.

1994: HazCom labels to be performance based. No explicit list of required elements, but rules about what end labels should achieve.

HazCom 2012 (GHS): Discrete requirements for both shipping and end-use labels are established. Labels to be uniform.

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WAC 296-901-140

“...Developing and maintaining a written hazard communication program for the workplace, including lists of hazardous chemicals present; labeling of containers of chemicals in the workplace, as well as of containers of chemicals being shipped to other workplaces; preparation and distribution of safety data sheets to employees and downstream employers; and development and implementation of employee training programs regarding hazards of chemicals and protective measures...”

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Compliant HazCom program

Written
HazCom
Program

Master
Inventory of
Chemicals

Labeling
System

Safety Data
Sheets (SDS)

Employee
Info and
Training

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Workers' right to know



Hazard Communication

Workers have the right to *know* and *understand* the hazardous chemicals they use and how to work with them safely.

www.osha.gov/hazcom 800-321-OSHA (6742) TTY 1-877-889-5627

Organization is *responsible* for ensuring that happens

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Avenues of influence: policy

Incorporating hazard communication into organization wide policies, as well as targeted policies

Evaluating job descriptions for current and new hires for duties and locations that may encounter hazardous chemicals

Including safety metrics in performance reviews

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Avenues of influence: training

At minimum, all employees that might interact with a hazardous chemical should receive training in:

- Health hazards and first-aid procedures
- Appropriate handling
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) available for use
- Clean up and spill response

New/promoted supervisors should also receive training relevant to any new responsibilities.

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Avenues of influence: training (cont.)

Additionally, state rules outline specific chemical training elements that must be covered.

Training. Employee training must include at least:

- (a) Methods and observations that may be used to detect the presence or release of a hazardous chemical in the work area (such as monitoring conducted by the employer, continuous monitoring devices, visual appearance or odor of hazardous chemicals when being released, etc.);
- (b) The physical, health, simple asphyxiation, combustible dust, and pyrophoric gas hazards, as well as hazards not otherwise classified, of the chemicals in the work area;
- (c) The measures employees can take to protect themselves from these hazards, including specific procedures the employer has implemented to protect employees from exposure to hazardous chemicals, such as appropriate work practices, emergency procedures, and personal protective equipment to be used; and
- (d) The details of the hazard communication program developed by the employer, including an explanation of the labels received on shipped containers and the workplace labeling system used by their employer; the safety data sheet, including the order of information and how employees can obtain and use the appropriate hazard information.

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Avenues of influence: engagement

HazCom programs are the most successful when engagement is felt at all levels, from the employees dealing directly with hazards to the leadership writing policy and approving PPE.

Methods to drive engagement:

- Incidents and near-misses
- Cost of claims
- Liability to fines and other legal exposures
- Safe workplaces keep employees = Retention

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Where to start: find the gaps

Possible programmatic gaps for hazard communication:

- Outdated policies/trainings
- Inconsistent policy across departments
- Trainings gaps (new hires OR new chemicals)
- Lack of access to PPE

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Okay but, where do I start?

*What is something you know about
chemical hazard communication that you didn't prior to today?*

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Tools to start: self assessment

Who in my organization is responsible for hazard communication?

Is it one person? Is the responsibility spread across departments? Our safety committee?

Where is our current hazard communication plan?

When was it last updated? Do we store it online, physically onsite?

How are my organization's hazards maintained?

Inventoried? SDSs?

Does our training currently meet the minimum obligations?

Do we keep records of trainings? What about when a new chemical is added?

When do we re-evaluate our hazard communication plan?

Annually? Every 5 years? Who approves an updated plan?

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Tools to start: safety culture

The values, attitudes, information, skills, and behaviors of the members regarding workplace safety.

In a healthy organizational safety culture, we would expect management to support and push:

- Shared understanding of safety's importance
- Mutual trust
- Belief in prevention
- Individual acceptance of common rules

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Wrapping up

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ANY
QUESTIONS
?



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Danielle Plenge
Occupational Safety and Health Manager
Workers' Compensation Retro Program
daniellep@awcnet.org
360-628-1816

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[OSHA3695.pdf](#)

[HAZARD COMMUNICATION: Hazard Classification Guidance for
Manufacturers, Importers, and Employers](#)

[Steps to an Effective Hazard Communication Program for Employers That
Use Hazardous Chemicals](#)

[Hazard Communication - Guidance Documents | Occupational Safety and
Health Administration](#)

[OSHA3658.pdf](#)

[Hazard Communication Safety Data Sheets](#)

[F413-012-000 Employer's Guide to the Hazard Communication Rule](#)

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