

# Chemical Reactivity and Storage

Presented by QBE  
Loss Control Services



# Objectives

- To understand basic terminology relating to chemical hazard classes and reactivity
  - To be able to identify chemicals that pose a high potential risk for property loss or injury
  - To be able to identify common incompatible chemicals that might be stored together
-

# Pretest

What are the 4 principles for good chemical storage?

Match the following chemicals to the appropriate reactivity hazard:

\_\_\_ Peroxides

A- Air Sensitive

\_\_\_ Acrylic Resins

B- Spontaneous Peroxide Formation

\_\_\_ Metal Dusts

C- Strong Oxidizers

\_\_\_ Ethers

D- Polymerization Hazard

\_\_\_ Hydrogen

E- Reducer

Explain why intentional chemistry processes are a major concern from a potential loss standpoint.

List 10 things that should be reviewed when evaluating chemical storage areas.

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# Former Ammonium Nitrate Plant



# Potential Losses Relating to Chemicals

- Property
    - Fire
    - Explosions
    - Environmental Release
  - Workers Compensation
    - Respiratory Disease
    - Dermatitis
    - Chemical Burns
    - Physical Injuries
  - General Liability
-

# Use of Chemicals

## Manufacturing Processes

- Chemical Product Manufacture
- Paint Manufacture
- Plating
- Metal Heat Treating
- Metal Cleaning
- Metal Degreasing
- Printing
- Plastics
- Concrete Additives
- Food Additives
- Adhesives
- Circuit Boards

## Distributors

- Warehouses
- Stores

## Ancillary Activities

- Painting
  - Waste Treatment
  - Water Treatment
  - Sanitation/Janitorial
  - Laboratories
  - Pest Control
  - Swimming Pools
  - Fertilizers
  - Lawn/garden Chemicals
  - Ammonia Refrigeration
-

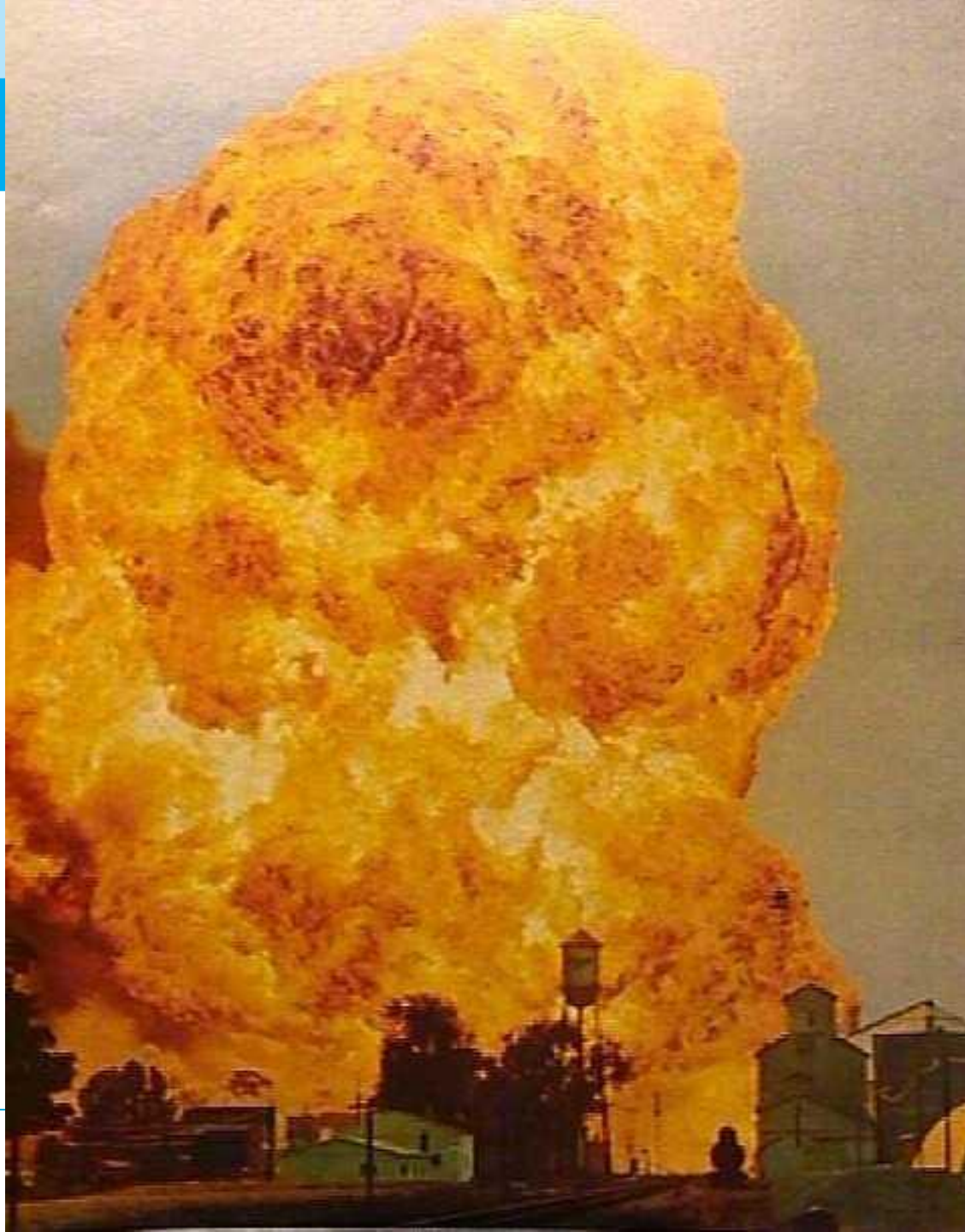
# Terminology

- Oxidizer
  - Polymerization
  - Reducer
  - Pyrophoric
  - Alkali
  - Acid
  - Explosives
  - Reactive
-

# Basic Chemistry

- Oxidizers want to gain electrons to be more stable
  - Reducers want to lose electrons to be more stable
  - The stronger the oxidizer, the more it wants to gain electrons
  - The stronger the reducer, the more it wants to lose electrons
-





# Strong Oxidizers

- Fluorine
  - Chlorine
  - Ozone
  - Persulfates
  - Peroxides
  - Perchlorates
  - Dichromates
  - Chromates
  - Permanganates
  - Hypochlorites
  - Nitrates
  - Nitrites
  - Liquid oxygen
  - Chlorates
-

# Reducers

- Finely divided metals
  - Hydrazine
  - Hydrides
  - Hydrogen
  - Aniline
  - Sodium
  - Lithium
  - Potassium
-

# Chemical State

- Solid
  - Liquid
  - Gas
-

# Scale of Chemical Use



# Scale of Chemical Use





# Chemical Reaction Equipment



# Scale of Chemical Use





# Other Storage Issues



# Other Safety Equipment



# Flammables

- Not addressed in this presentation
  - Store according to NFPA and QBE property guidelines
-

# Water Reactive Chemicals

- Alkali metals (lithium, sodium, magnesium)
  - Hydrides (diborane, sodium hydride)
  - Peroxides (sodium peroxide)
  - Carbides (calcium carbide)
  - Oxides (sodium oxide)
  - Phosphides (aluminum phosphide)
  - Anhydrides (acetic anhydride)
-

# Polymerizable Chemicals

- Chemical chain reaction of monomers to form polymers
  - May self react
  - May react vigorously with water
  - May give off hazardous gases
  - May cause high pressure in storage container
  - Inhibitors are used to prevent reaction
-

# Polymerizable Chemicals

- Acrylic acid
  - Acrylonitrile
  - Ethyl acrylate
  - Methyl acrylate
  - Methacrylic acid
  - Vinyl acetate
-

# Unstable/Shock Sensitive Chemicals

- Very unstable
  - React vigorously
  - Mechanical shock, elevated temperature or pressures can cause reaction
-

# Unstable/Shock Sensitive Chemicals

- Ammonium perchlorate
  - Azo, diazo or azide chemicals
  - Fulminates
  - Hydrogen peroxide
  - Organic peroxides
  - Nitro or nitroso compounds
  - Picric acid
  - Perchloric acid
  - Triazines
-



# Air-Sensitive Compounds

- Reactive with oxygen in air
  - Usually pyrophoric
  - Usually stored under inert gas or liquid
-

# Air-Sensitive Compounds

- Metallic dusts (zinc, nickel, titanium)
  - Alkali metals (potassium, sodium, magnesium)
  - Hydrides (diborane, barium hydride)
-

# Organic Peroxides

- Compounds having two oxygen atoms joined together (peroxy)
  - Severe fire and explosion hazard
  - Burn rapidly and intensely
  - May be strong oxidizers
  - Plastics and rubber industries
  - Used as accelerators, activators, catalysts, curing agents, hardeners, initiators or promoters
  - Solids liquids and pastes
  - Can be formed spontaneously
-

# Organic Peroxides

- Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide
  - Benzol peroxide
  - Hydrogen peroxide
  - Peracetic acid
  - There are many other peroxides
-

# Spontaneous Peroxide Formation

- Some chemicals can form peroxides during storage
  - Light and heat can cause peroxide formation
  - Prolonged storage of susceptible chemicals
-

# Spontaneous Peroxide Formation

- Ethers
  - Tetrahydrofuran
  - p-Dioxane
  - 2-Propanol
  - 2-Butanol
  - Methyl isobutyl ketone
  - Styrene
  - Vinyl acetate
-

# NFPA Standards

- NFPA 430- Code for Storage of Liquid and Solid Oxidizers
  - NFPA 432- Code for Storage of Organic Peroxide Formulations
  - NFPA 484- Code for Combustible Metals, Metal Powders and Metal Dusts
  - NFPA 490- Code for Storage of Ammonium Nitrate
  - NFPA 495- Explosive Materials Code
-

# Swimming Pool Chemicals

- Strong oxidizers
  - 3.8 million swimming pools in U.S.
  - Kill bacteria, fungi, viruses by releasing chlorine
-



# Swimming Pool Chemicals

## Inorganic

- Calcium hypochlorite (Cal hypo)
- Lithium hypochlorite
- Sodium hypochlorite (bleach)
- Chlorine gas (large pools)

## Organic

- Trichloroisocyanuric acid (Trichlor)
  - Potassium dichloroisocyanurate (Dichlor)
  - Sodium dichloroisocyanurate (Dichlor)
  - Sodium dichloroisocyanurate dihydrate (Dichlor)
  - Brominated Hydantoin
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# Swimming Pool Chemicals

Cal hypo + Chlorinated Isocyanurate +  
Water = Chlorine Gas

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# Swimming Pool Chemical Storage

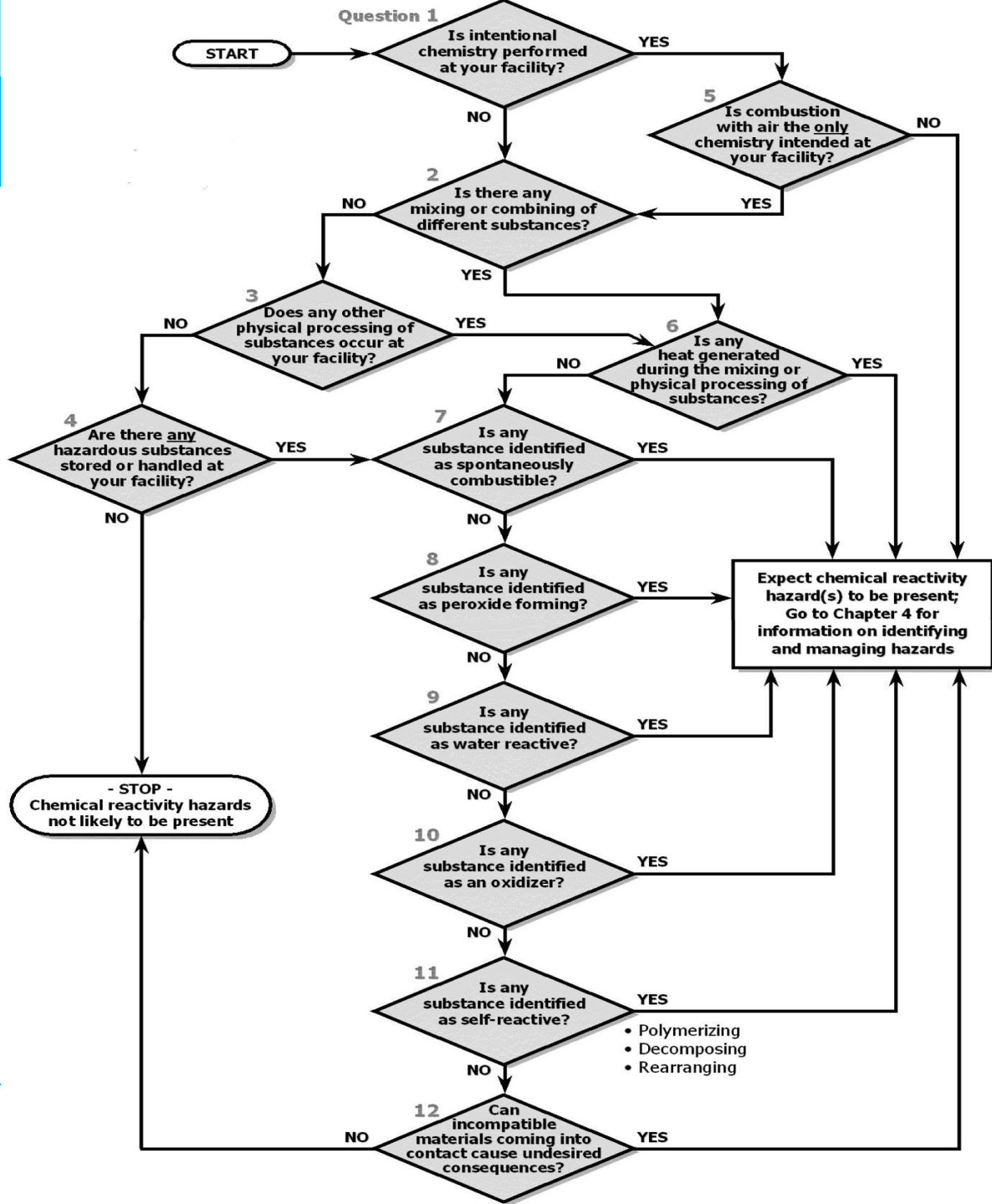
- Secure
  - Area should be posted with signs
  - Well ventilated
  - Away from sunlight
  - Dry
  - Store in original labeled containers
  - Store away from acids
  - Spills should be cleaned up immediately according to manufacturer's procedures
-

# Laboratories

- Small quantities of chemicals
- Wide variety of chemicals
- Usually highly trained and employees



# Chemical Reactivity Risk Evaluation



## Question

**1**

**Is intentional  
chemistry performed  
at your facility?**

**YES**

**NO**

**Go to Question 5**

**Go to Question 2**

### **Examples**

- **Continuous or batch chemical reactions**
- **Catalytic cracking**
- **Electro-chemistry**

### **Examples**

- **Paint formulating**
- **Powder mixing**
- **Diluting with solvent**
- **Warehousing**

# Indicators of Intentional Chemistry

- Products have different chemical formulas than the starting materials
  - Gases are given off
  - Solid is formed from liquid or gaseous starting materials
  - A catalyst or initiator is used
  - Heat is generated or must be added to the process
-

# Problems with Intentional Chemistry

- Wrong materials added
  - Improper amounts of materials added
  - Inadequate cleaning of equipment
  - Materials added in wrong sequence
  - Materials added too fast or too slow
  - Contaminated feed materials
  - Improper temperature of feed materials
  - Air leaks
  - Insufficient agitation
  - Heat transfer inadequate
  - Off-gas vent blocked or not open
-



# Chemical Reaction Vessel



## Question

# 2

**Is there any mixing or combining of different substances?**

**YES**

**NO**

**Go to Question 6**

**Go to Question 3**

### **Examples**

- Paint formulating
- Powder mixing
- Diluting with solvent
- Blending

### **Examples**

- Size reduction
- Warehousing
- Repackaging

## Question

### 3

**Does any other physical processing of substances occur at your facility?**

**YES**

**NO**

**Go to Question 6**

**Go to Question 4**

#### **Examples**

- **Size reduction**
- **Heating/drying**
- **Absorption**
- **Distillation**
- **Screening**

#### **Examples**

- **Receiving**
- **Tank storage**
- **Warehousing**
- **Repackaging**
- **Shipping**

## Question

4

Are there any hazardous substances stored or handled at your facility?

**YES**

**Go to Question 7**

### **Examples**

- Chemicals
- Biocides
- Cleaners
- Additives
- etc.

**NO**

**STOP HERE**

### **Examples**

- Structural materials
- Foodstuffs
- Plastics
- Durable goods



# Chemical Storage



**Question  
5**

**Is combustion  
with air the only  
chemistry intended at  
your facility?**

**YES**

**Go to Question 2**

**Examples**

- Boilers
- Flares
- Fired heaters
- Burners

**NO**

**EXPECT HAZARD**

**Examples**

- Continuous or batch chemical reactions
- Catalytic cracking
- Coking

## Question

# 6

**Is any heat generated during the mixing or physical processing of substances?**

**YES**

**EXPECT HAZARD**

### Examples

- Caustic + water
- Intense mixing
- Concentrated acid + aqueous solution
- Carbon adsorption

**NO**

**Go to Question 7**

### Examples

- Low-intensity powder blending
- Dilution with similar solvent
- Screening
- Drying

## Question

# 7

**Is any substance identified as spontaneously combustible?**

**YES**

**EXPECT HAZARD**

### Examples

- Aluminum alkyl
- Grignard reagent
- Finely divided metals
- Iron sulfide

**NO**

**Go to Question 8**

### Examples

- Noncombustible materials
- Flammables or combustibles needing an ignition source to start burning



## Question

# 8

**Is any substance identified as peroxide forming?**

**YES**

**EXPECT HAZARD**

### Examples

- 1,3-Butadiene
- 1,1-Dichloroethylene
- Isopropyl ether
- Other ethers
- Alkali metals

**NO**

**Go to Question 9**

### Examples

- Most organic and inorganic materials are not peroxide forming

## Question

# 9

**Is any  
substance identified  
as water reactive?**

**YES**

**EXPECT HAZARD**

### Examples

- Sodium
- Titanium tetrachloride
- Boron trifluoride
- Acetic anhydride

**NO**

**Go to Question 10**

### Examples

- Most organic and inorganic materials are not water reactive

**Question**

**10**

**Is any  
substance identified  
as an oxidizer?**

**YES**

**NO**

**EXPECT HAZARD**

**Go to Question 11**

**Examples**

- Chlorine
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Nitric acid
- Nitrates
- Ozone
- Hypochlorites

**Examples**

- Most organic and inorganic materials are not oxidizers
- Reducing agents

## Question

# 11

**Is any  
substance identified  
as self-reactive?**

**YES**

**NO**

**EXPECT HAZARD**

**Go to Question 12**

### **Categories**

- **Polymerizing**
- **Shock sensitive**
- **Thermally decomposing**
- **Rearranging**

### **Examples**

**Chemicals that by themselves are stable; if they decompose when heated, decomposition is not self-accelerating**

## Question

# 12

**Can incompatible materials coming into contact cause undesired consequences?**

**YES**

**EXPECT HAZARD**

### Examples

- Nitric acid + most chemicals
- Ammonia + methacrylic acid
- Caustic soda + epichlorohydrin

**NO**

**STOP HERE**

### Examples

- Phosphoric acid + hexane
- Ammonia + ethylenediamine
- Gasoline + ethyl alcohol

# Chemical Spills/Waste

- Assume all chemicals are reactive
  - Many fires start in dumpsters/waste containers due to mixing of incompatible chemicals
  - Some reactions are immediate
  - Many reactions may take hours or more
  - Waste segregation by type
  - Spill procedures and training
  - HAZMAT procedures
-

# Incompatible Materials Evaluation

## Step one: Determine if there are Undesirable Consequences

- Toxic gas generation
  - Corrosive gas or liquid generation
  - Flammable gas generation
  - Formation of shock-sensitive or explosive materials
  - Explosion
  - Fire
  - Off-gas generation that can rupture containers
  - Sufficient heating to cause runaway reaction
-

# Incompatible Materials Evaluation

## Step two: Identify Mixing Scenarios

- Leaking containers
  - Pumping into wrong storage tank, vessel
  - Cross connected line left open
  - Material mislabeled or unlabeled
  - Wrong material selected by operator
  - Waste materials combined in tank or container
  - Waste material combined in sewer
  - Contaminated raw material
  - Residue from previous batch in equipment
  - Cleaning materials left in process equipment
  - Fire or explosion
-



# Incompatible Materials Evaluation

Step Three:

Provide Controls to Prevent Mixing

- Training
  - Segregation
  - Engineering Controls
-

# Chemical Storage Principles

- Segregation
  - Protection from Physical Damage
  - Hazard Identification
  - Fire Control
-

# Storage Guidelines

- Ensure containers are labeled
  - Segregate incompatibles by hazard class
  - Do not store alphabetically
  - Store flammables according to GC property guidelines
  - Do not store chemicals above eye level
  - Do not overcrowd shelves
  - Avoid storing chemicals on floor
  - Liquids should be stored in unbreakable packaging
-

# Chemical Segregation Scheme

- Compressed Gases- Flammable
  - Compressed Gases- Oxidizing
  - Acids
  - Bases
  - Flammable Liquids
  - Flammable Solids
  - Oxidizers
  - Reducers
  - Water-Reactive
  - Peroxide Forming Chemicals
  - Poisons/Toxins
  - Carcinogens
-

# Chemical Incompatibility Chart

	Acids Inorganic	Acids Oxidizing	Acids Organic	Alkalis Bases	Oxidizers	Poisons Inorganic	Poisons Organic	Water Reactives	Organic Solvents
Acids Inorganic			X	X		X	X	X	X
Acids Oxidizing			X	X		X	X	X	X
Acids Organic	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Alkalis Bases	X	X	X				X	X	X
Oxidizers			X				X	X	X
Poisons Inorganic	X	X	X				X	X	X
Poisons Organic	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Water Reactives	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Organic Solvents	X	X		X	X	X			

# Loss Control Evaluation of Chemicals

- Improper storage of incompatibles
  - Leaking or deteriorating containers
  - Spilled chemicals
  - Temperature extremes
  - Lack of or low lighting levels
  - Blocked exits or aisles
  - Security of storage area
  - Trash accumulation
  - Evidence of smoking
  - Adequate ventilation
  - Hazard communication program
  - Employee training
  - Waste handling procedures
  - HAZMAT procedures
  - Intentional chemistry performed
  - Fire extinguishers
  - Sprinkler system
  - Warning signs
  - Labeling
  - MSDSs
-

# Loss Control Evaluation of Chemicals



# Loss Control Evaluation of Chemicals





# Chemical Storage Cabinets



# Storage Cabinets



# Chemical Handling/Dispensing



# Painting Area



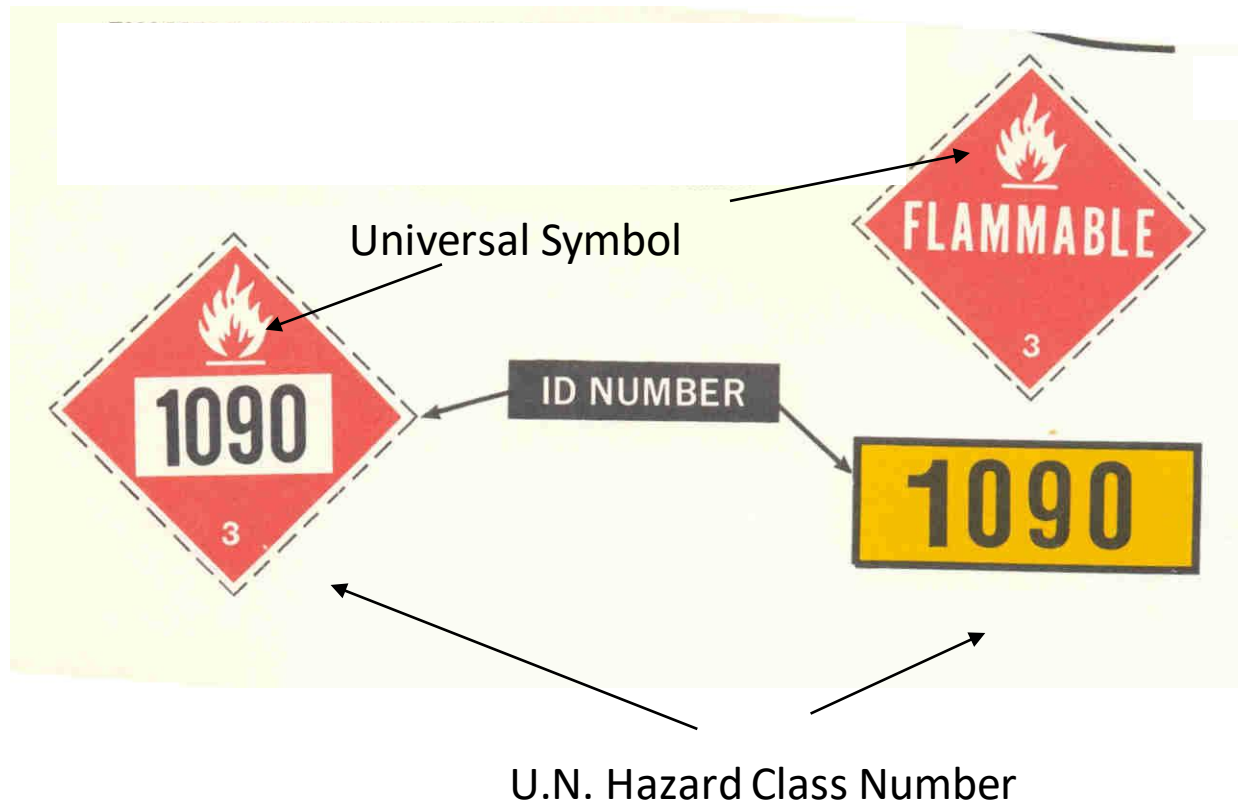


# DOT Labels

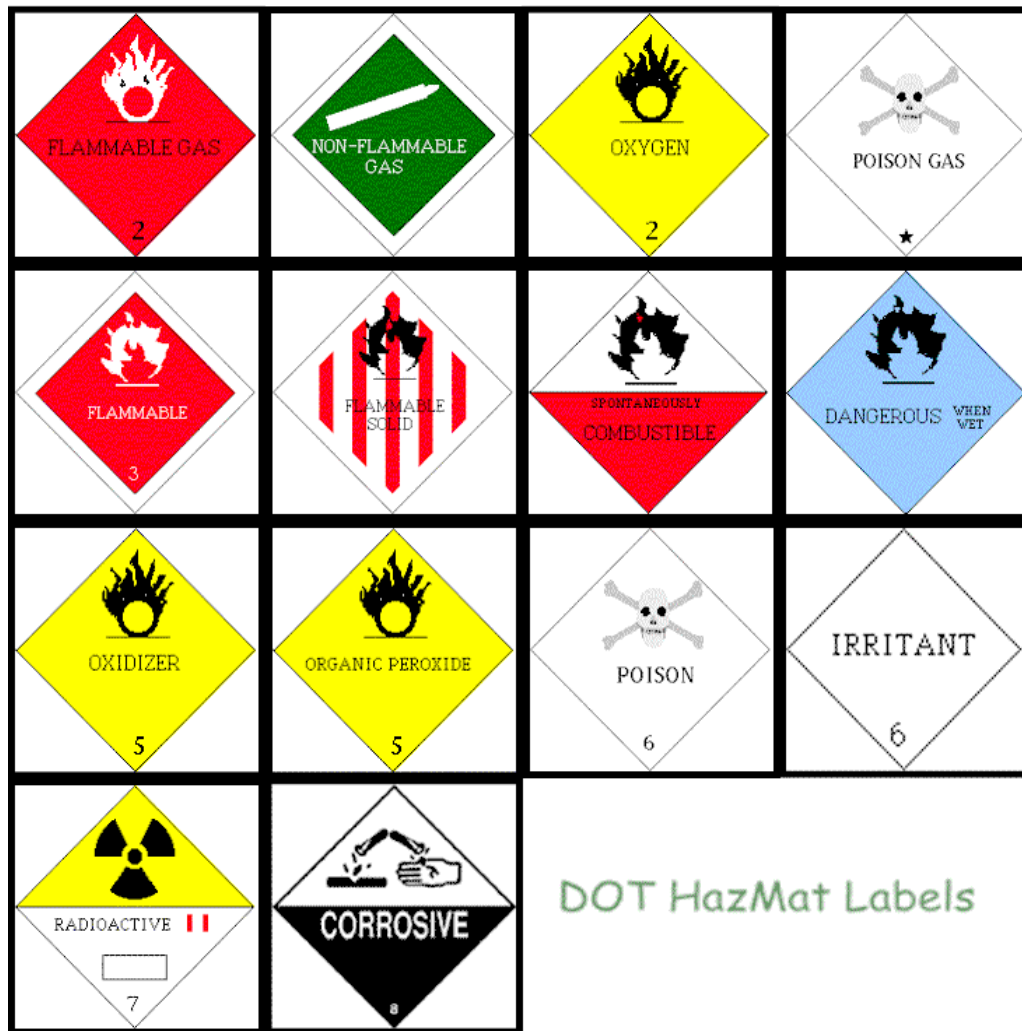
- Hazardous materials fall under the labeling requirements of U.S. DOT for placarding both for bulk transport and nonbulk transport
  - DOT has assigned each hazardous material or group of materials a unique four digit ID number for cross reference by hazardous response personnel
  - The labels are color coded and may also include a single digit Hazard Class Number and a universal symbol
-

# DOT Labels

**DOT labels are the type we most often see on containers in the field**



# DOT Labels



# DOT Labels

- Class 1 = Explosives
  - Class 2 = Gases
  - Class 3 = Flammable Liquids
  - Class 4 = Flammable Solids
  - Class 5 = Oxidizers
  - Class 6 = Poisons & Infectious
  - Class 7 = Radioactive
  - Class 8 = Corrosives
  - Class 9 = Miscellaneous
-



# DOT Labels

## Class 1- Explosives

- Division 1.1- Explosives with a mass explosion hazard
- Division 1.2- Explosions with a projection hazard
- Division 1.3- Explosives that are a fire hazard
- Division 1.4- Explosives with no significant blast hazard
- Division 1.5- Very insensitive explosives

## Class 4- Flammable solids, Spontaneously combustible materials and materials dangerous when wet

- Division 4.1 Flammable solids
- Division 4.2 Spontaneously combustible materials
- Division 4.3 Materials that are dangerous when wet

## Class 5- Oxidizers and Organic Peroxides

- Oxidizers
  - Organic Peroxides
-

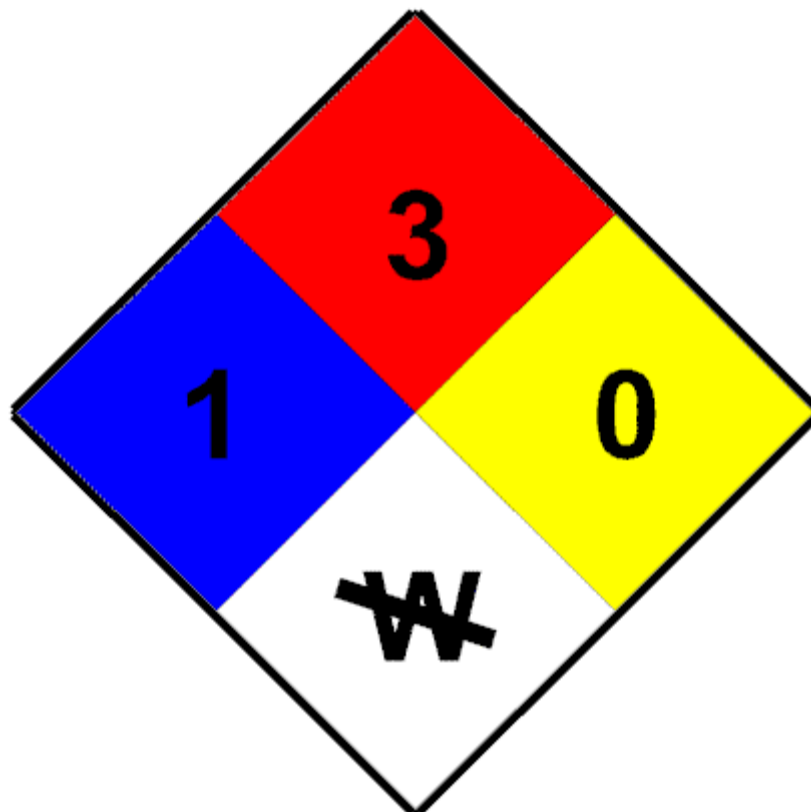
# DOT Labels



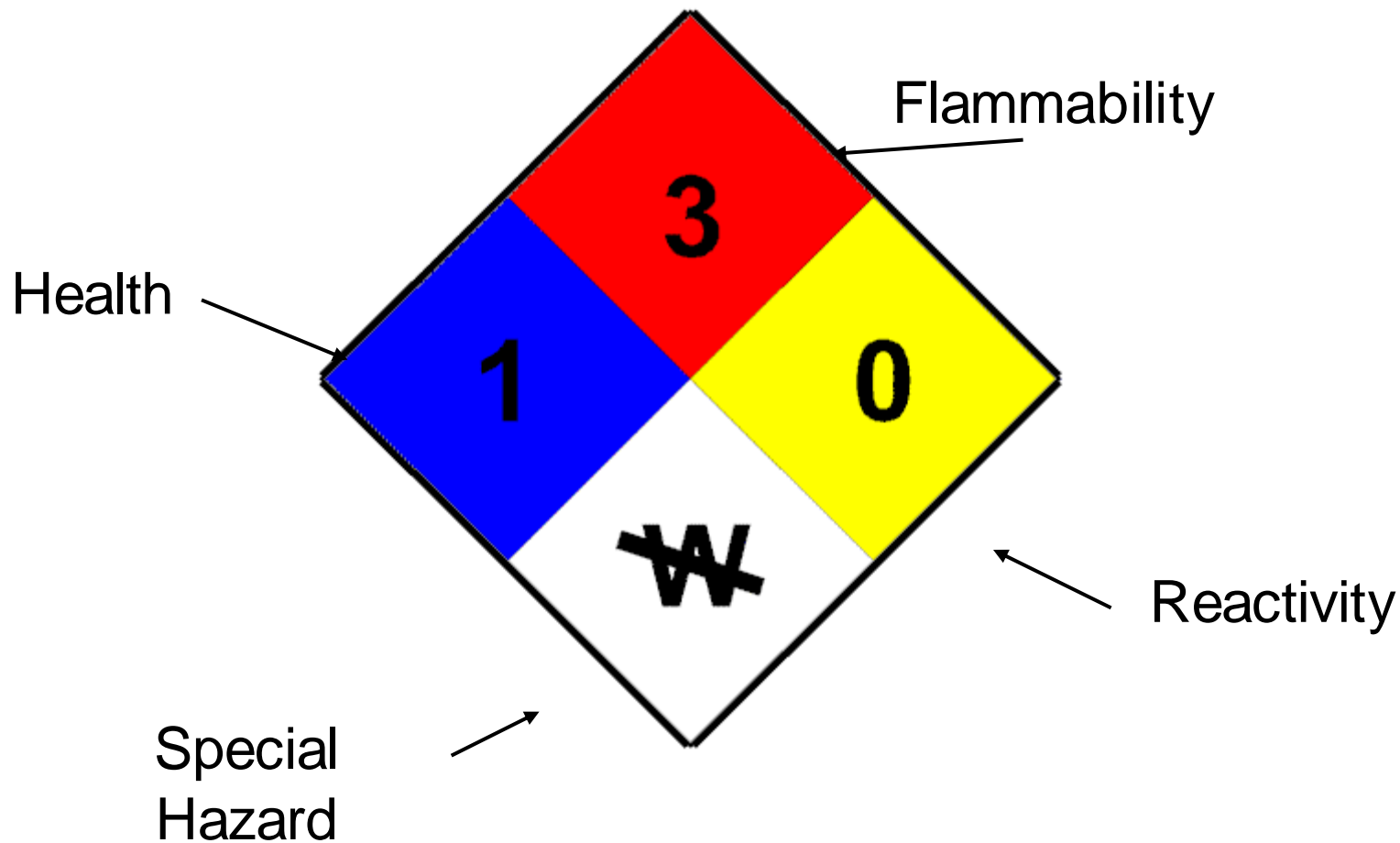
# DOT Labels



# NFPA Labels



# NFPA Labels



# NFPA Labels

- NFPA 704
  - Hazards rating based upon exposure hazards during fires
  - Reactivity rating based on reactions with water
-

# NFPA Labels

## Health

- 4- Materials that can cause death or serious chronic injury with very short exposure
  - 3- Materials that can cause serious temporary or chronic injury with short exposure
  - 2- Materials that can cause temporary injury or possible chronic injury with intense exposure
  - 1- Materials that can cause irritation but only minor chronic injury
  - 0- Materials that cause no hazard beyond those of ordinary combustibles in a fire situation
-

# NFPA Labels

## Flammability

- 4- Materials that rapidly or completely vaporize at atmospheric pressure and normal temperature and burn readily
  - 3- Liquids and solids that can be ignited under almost all ambient temperature conditions
  - 2- Materials that must be moderately heated before ignition occurs
  - 1- Materials that must be preheated before ignition occurs
  - 0- Materials that will not burn
-

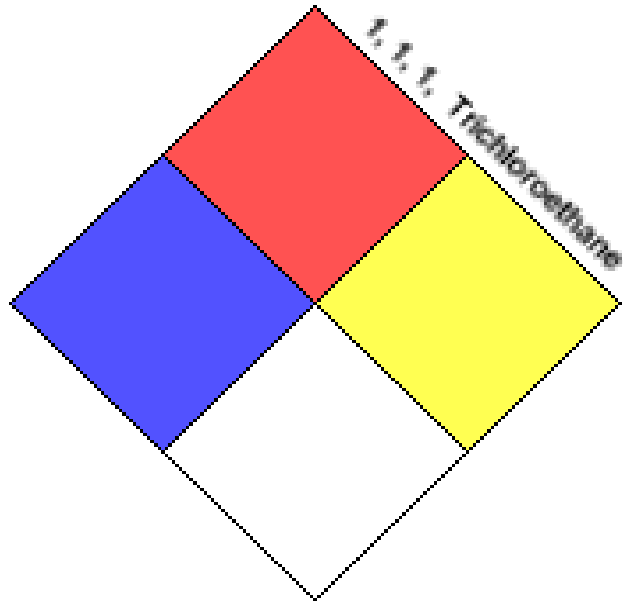


# NFPA Labels

## Reactivity

- 4- Materials that are readily capable of detonation or explosive decomposition at normal temperatures and pressures
  - 3- Materials that are capable of detonation or explosive decomposition but require a strong initiating source or must be heated under confinement, or explosively react with water
  - 2- Materials that readily undergo violent chemical change at elevated temperature or pressure, or react violently with water
  - 1- Materials that are normally stable but can become unstable at elevated temperatures or pressures
  - 0- Materials that are normally stable even under fire exposure and are not reactive with water
-

# HMIG (Hazardous Material Information Guide)



1, 1, 1, Trichloroethane	
<input type="checkbox"/>	HEALTH
<input type="checkbox"/>	FLAMMABILITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	REACTIVITY
<input type="checkbox"/>	PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

# HMIG Labels

## HAZARD RATING INDEX

### Health Hazard

**4 - Extreme:** Highly Toxic - May be fatal on short term exposure. Special protective equipment required.

**3 - Serious:** Toxic - Avoid inhalation or skin contact.

**2 - Moderate:** Moderately Toxic - May be harmful if inhaled or absorbed.

**1 - Slight:** Slightly Toxic - May cause slight irritation.

**0 - Minimal:** All chemicals have some degree of toxicity.

### Flammability Hazard

**4 - Extreme:** Extremely flammable gas or liquid, Flash Point below 73°F.

**3 - Serious:** Flammable - Flash Point 73°F to 100°F.

**2 - Moderate:** Combustible - Requires moderate heating to ignite. Flash Point 100°F to 200°F.

**1 - Slight:** Slightly Combustible - Requires strong heating to ignite.

**0 - Minimal:** Will not burn under normal conditions.

### Reactivity Hazard

**4 - Extreme:** Explosive at room temperature.

**3 - Serious:** May explode if shocked, heated under confinement or mixed with water.

**2 - Moderate:** Unstable, may react with water.

**1 - Slight:** May react if heated or mixed with water.

**0 - Minimal:** Normally stable, does not react with water.

## HAZARDOUS MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

### PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT GUIDE

A		
B		
C		
D		
E		
F		
G		
H		
I		
J		
K		
X	Ask your supervisor for special handling instructions.	



● HEALTH  
● FLAMMABILITY  
● REACTIVITY  
○ PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



# Housekeeping Issues





# Housekeeping & Storage





# Labeling



# Chemical Storage/Reactivity Red Flags

- Peroxide
  - Oxidizer
  - Catalyst
  - Accelerator
  - Activator
  - Polymerization
  - Reducer
  - Chromate
  - Dichromates
  - Nitrate
  - Perchlorate
  - Nitric acid
  - Chlorates
  - Permanganates
  - Hypochlorates
  - Persulfate
  - Water reactive
  - Nitro
  - Azides
  - Curing agent
  - Hardener
  - Initiator
  - Promoter
  - Acids
  - Bases
  - Unstable
  - Pyrophoric
-

# 10 Loss Control Questions

1. Are hazardous substances stored or handled at the facility?
  2. Have materials been evaluated for potential reactivity hazards or incompatibility if they are accidentally mixed together?
  3. Is intentional chemistry performed?
  4. Is there mixing of different substances?
  5. Is heat generated during mixing or processing?
  6. Are any spontaneously combustible materials, peroxides, water reactive materials, oxidizers or self-reactive (polymerizable) materials used or stored?
  7. Are incompatible chemicals segregated?
  8. Are storage containers properly labeled and identified?
  9. Are storage containers in good condition?
  10. Are employees properly training in Hazard Communication and proper chemical handling and storage procedures?
-



# Other Sources of Information

- OSHA – Many resources are available under “chemical reactivity hazards” in the topics index
  - Essential Practices for Managing Chemical Reactivity Hazards- Center for Chemical Process Safety- Download from OSHA’s website
  - Organic Peroxides- E&S PC-30-11
  - Chlorinated Swimming Pool Sanitizers- E&S PC-30-02
  - Contact the HO EH Specialist
-

# Post-test

What are the 4 principles for good chemical storage?

Match the following chemicals to the appropriate reactivity hazard:

\_\_\_ Peroxides

A- Air Sensitive

\_\_\_ Acrylic Resins

B- Spontaneous Peroxide Formation

\_\_\_ Metal Dusts

C- Strong Oxidizers

\_\_\_ Ethers

D- Polymerization Hazard

\_\_\_ Hydrogen

E- Reducer

Explain why intentional chemistry processes are a major concern from a potential loss standpoint.

List 10 things that should be reviewed when evaluating chemical storage areas.

---