HAZARD COMMUNICATION LABELS

THE OXIDIZER PICTOGRAM

Safety ToolBox Talks BLR

This talk informs employees of the meaning of the oxidizer pictogram, including identifying the specific hazards to which an employee may be exposed when using a chemical labeled with this pictogram, and where the employee can go to get more information on protective measures to minimize associated risks.

Materials to have on hand:

- A large, color replica of the oxidizer pictogram
- A Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)-compliant chemical label used in the facility with an oxidizer pictogram
- The safety data sheet (SDS) for the same chemical labeled with the oxidizer pictogram
- The facility's Hazard Communication Plan

Items for attendees to consider during the talk:

- Where would you get information about the chemicals you might be exposed to while doing your job?
- What are the hazards associated with the oxidizer pictogram?

TALK

Your job requires you to work with various chemicals on a regular basis. Containers of hazardous chemicals at this facility are all labeled in the same way and contain the same categories of information. You must take the time to read the labels on the chemicals in your work area and become familiar with the format and the types of information on the labels.

On each of these labels, you will see one or more pictograms. These are the red diamonds with the black pictures on a white background.

[Show a GHS-compliant label currently used in the facility and point out the pictogram(s).]

Pictograms are meant to help you quickly identify the hazards associated with a chemical. There are nine different pictograms that represent different hazards. Today, we will focus on one specific pictogram: the oxidizer pictogram. It is a red diamond, and inside the diamond is a black flame over a circle on a white background.

[Show the large color replica of the oxidizer pictogram.]

So, what does this pictogram mean? Well, if you see this pictogram on a chemical label, it means that this chemical is an oxidizer and a severe fire hazard. Oxidizers are not necessarily combustible, but they can easily break down to provide oxygen that can intensify combustion and allow other chemicals to ignite more easily. Oxidizers can be solids, liquids, or gases. When an oxidizer comes into contact with certain other chemicals, the resulting reaction may be unpredictable, violent, or even explosive.

Continued on page 2

Talk Date: _____

Location: _____

_____

Supervisor/ Presenter: _____

Attendees: _____

_____

_____

Comments: _____

_____

HAZARD COMMUNICATION

[Describe some of the chemicals in the facility that are labeled with the oxidizer pictogram and where they are used.]

So, when you see this pictogram, be cautious and do things the right way, which includes following the Precautionary Statements on the label.

More specific information on the hazards of a chemical is listed in the Hazard Statement on the label and in the safety data sheet, or SDS, for the chemical.

[Show a GHS-compliant label currently used in the facility and point out the Precautionary Statement(s) and Hazard Statement(s).]

The SDS will also give you information on what personal protective equipment, or PPE, to use; what to do if you or a coworker is exposed to the chemical; how to safely handle, store, and dispose of the chemical; and how to handle spills and leaks.

[Show an SDS and/or describe the location(s) or methods of accessing SDSs.]

At a minimum, you must wear adequate eye protection and appropriate protective clothing and gloves when working with oxidizers.

Proper storage of oxidizers is extremely important. Store oxidizers in a cool, dry, metal cabinet away from heat and separated from any organic, combustible, or flammable substances. Improper storage and improper segregation of oxidizers from incompatible chemicals can cause a fire or explosion, even without an ignition source like a spark or flame. So, make sure you put these chemicals away, where they belong.

[Describe where in the facility oxidizers are to be stored and any chemicals used at the facility that may react with the oxidizers, which, therefore, should not be stored with the oxidizers.]

We all know there are hazardous chemicals at this facility, but if we understand and use the information available to us, we can minimize our risk. So, pay attention to the labels on the chemical containers, and take the time to review the SDS. It will help keep us all healthy and safe.