Hazard Communication

Introduction to Safety Data Sheets and Chemical Labels
Before working in a hazardous environment you must receive specific safety training to understand what hazards are or could be present, including chemical hazards, and how to protect yourself from those hazards – such training is provided under the direction of your supervisor.
“Hazard communication” (aka HAZCOM) is the title given to OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.1200. The purpose of the standard is to:

1) Have chemical producers and manufactures perform a hazard evaluation of the chemicals they produce;
2) Ensure chemical producers and manufacturers document the hazards they have identified on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and product labels, which are provided to consumers; and
3) Have employers inform and train employees:
   o How to interpret SDS and product labels;
   o To understand the chemical hazards they will/could be exposed to at work; and
   o How to protect themselves.
In March 2012 OSHA aligned their HAZCOM standard with the U.N. Globally Harmonized System (GHS) for hazard classification of substances and mixtures, SDS development, and product labeling.

The GHS provides decision logic for chemical producers to determine the hazard classifications of substances and mixtures and what information must be included on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and product labels.

“Material Safety Data Sheets” (MSDS) have been retitled “Safety Data Sheets” (SDS)
SDS are documents that include the following sections in the following order:

- Section 1, Identification (i.e. product name);
- Section 2, Hazard(s) identification;
- Section 3, Composition/information on ingredients;
- Section 4, First-aid measures;
- Section 5, Fire-fighting measures;
- Section 6, Accidental release measures;
- Section 7, Handling and storage;
- Section 8, Exposure controls/personal protection;
- Section 9, Physical and chemical properties;
- Section 10, Stability and reactivity;
- Section 11, Toxicological information;
- Section 12, Ecological information;
- Section 13, Disposal considerations;
- Section 14, Transport information;
- Section 15, Regulatory information; and
- Section 16, Other information, including date of preparation or last revision.
Each laboratory or shop must maintain current copies of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for hazardous chemicals and mixtures that are present in their area. These are to be available in hard copy or electronic format, but must always be readily available.

Those who have been asked to collect current versions of SDS for their laboratory should first seek to obtain a current version from the product manufacturer website. If the manufacturer doesn’t have a website then look at the container label for contact information and request a hard copy.

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Street Address & Phone Number

Where are your safety data sheets (SDS)?
The following GHS symbols may be encountered on Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and primary container labels:

- Exploding Bomb (explosive)
- Gas Cylinder (gas under pressure)
- Skull & Crossbones (oxidizer)
- Flame (flammable)
- Environment (env. hazard)
- Flame Over Circle (corrosive)
- Corrosion (corrosive)
- Health Hazard (see label or SDS)
- Exclamation Mark (see label or SDS)

(see label or SDS)

Review the hazard statements on the primary container label or SDS for additional hazard information.
Determine what hazards are associated with the chemical by referencing the hazard statements on the label or SDS.
Primary Container Labels

Don't remove or deface.

Pay attention to expiration dates!

Applied by the manufacturer

Secondary Container Labels

Must Contain:

- Product Identification (chemical/product name)
- Hazard Identification (words/pictures/symbols)

Information needed for secondary labels can be found on SDS or primary container labels.
Please share this presentation with your co-workers.