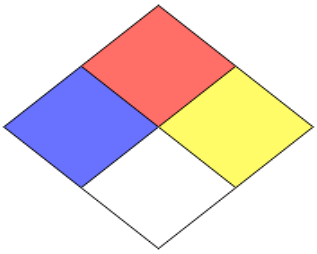
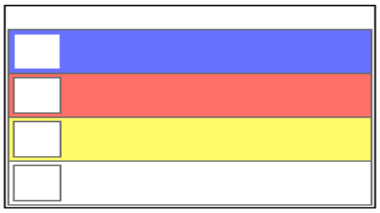
Nashville State Community College
120 White Bridge Rd.
Nashville, TN 37209

Understanding National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Labeling

NFPA Diamond





Labeling System

HEALTH	
4	Deadly: even the slightest exposure to this substance would be life threatening. Only specialized protective clothing, for these materials, should be worn.
3	Extreme Danger: serious injury would result from exposure to this substance. Do not expose anybody surface to these materials. Full protective measures should be taken.
2	Dangerous: exposure to this substance would be hazardous to health. Protective measures are indicated.
1	Slight Hazard: irritation or minor injury would result from exposure to this substance. Protective measures are indicated.
0	No Hazard: exposure to this substance offers no significant risk to health.

FLAMMABILITY	
4	Flash Point Below 73ºF and Boiling Point Below 100ºF: this substance is very flammable, volatile or explosive depending on its state. Extreme caution should be used in handling or storing of these materials.
3	Flash Point Below 100ºF: flammable, volatile or explosive under almost all normal temperature conditions. Exercise great caution in storage or handling of these materials.
2	Flash Point Below 200ºF: moderately heated conditions may ignite this substance. Caution procedures should be employed in handling.
1	Flash Point Above 200ºF: this substance must be preheated to ignite. Most combustible solids would be in this category.
0	Will Not Burn: substances that will not burn.

REACTIVITY	
4	May Detonate: substances that are readily capable of detonation or explosion at normal temperatures and pressures. Evacuate area if exposed to heat or fire.
3	Explosive: substances that are readily capable of detonation or explosion by a strong initiating source, such as heat, shock or water. Monitor from behind explosion-resistant barriers.
2	Unstable: violent chemical changes are possible at normal or elevated temperatures and pressures. Potentially violent or explosive reaction may occur when mixed with water. Monitor from a safe distance.
1	Normally stable: substances that may become unstable at elevated temperatures and pressures or when mixed with water. Approach with caution.
0	Stable: substances which will remain stable when exposed to heat, pressure or water.

Special Hazards

This section is used to denote special hazards. There are only three NFPA 704 **approved** symbols:

OX	This denotes an oxidizer, a chemical which can greatly increase the rate of combustion/fire.
SA	This denotes gases which are simple asphyxiants. The only gases for which this symbol is permitted are nitrogen, helium, neon, argon, krypton, and xenon.. The use of this hazard symbol is optional.
W	Unusual reactivity with water. This indicates a potential hazard using water to fight a fire involving this material. When a compound is both water-reactive and an oxidizer, the W/bar symbol should go in this quadrant and the OX warning is placed immediately below the NFPA diamond.

Note: NFPA 704 permits the use of additional symbols, but they must be placed **outside** of the NFPA diamond. The following symbols are **not compliant** with NFPA 704, but are presented them here in case you see them on an MSDS or container label.

ACID	This indicates that the material is an acid, a corrosive material that has a pH lower than 7.0
ALK	This denotes an alkaline material, also called a base. These caustic materials have a pH greater than 7.0
COR	This denotes a material that is corrosive (it could be either an acid or a base).
	This is a another symbol used for corrosive.

	The skull and crossbones is used to denote a poison or highly toxic material. See also: CHIP Danger symbols.
	The international symbol for radioactivity is used to denote radioactive hazards; radioactive materials are extremely hazardous when inhaled.
	Indicates an explosive material. This symbol is somewhat redundant because explosives are easily recognized by their Instability Rating.

Signs and Labeling

All buildings on Nashville Sate Community College property will be placarded in compliance with the law. Each building which contains over the TPQ (threshold planning quantity) of a hazardous substance will bear the appropriately numbered, diamond-shaped placard approved by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).