

Section 9: Door Signs

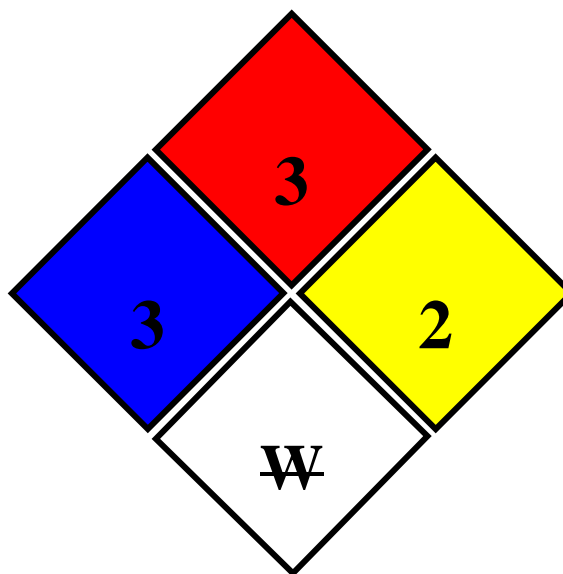
What goes here?

Please insert a copy of your current door sign. The sign can be easily edited and downloaded from <http://safety.ag.utk.edu/hazRooms/>.

Why do you need to put these documents here?

This document will be matched to the one on your door, and will reflect the current lab contact information, as well as the general NFPA ratings for what is inside your lab space. This information should change as the lab personnel turn over and the lab chemical usage/storage changes.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 704 “Hazard Diamond”



Above example: Sodium metal

Health Hazard (Blue diamond)

- 4 – Deadly
- 3 – Extreme danger
- 2 – Hazardous
- 1 – Slightly Hazardous
- 0 – Normal material

Fire Hazard (Red Diamond)

- Flash points:
- 4 – Below 73°F
 - 3 – Below 100°F
 - 2 – Above 100°F, not exceeding 200°F
 - 1 – Above 200°F
 - 0 – Will not burn

Reactivity Hazard (Yellow diamond)

- 4 – May detonate
- 3 – Shock and heat may detonate
- 2 – Violent chemical change
- 1 – Unstable if heated
- 0 – Stable

Specific Hazard (White diamond)

- OX - Oxidizer
- ACID - Acid
- ALK - Alkali
- CORR - Corrosive
- W – Water reactive (Use no water)
- ☢ - Radioactive

One of the main features of the door sign is the NFPA Hazard Diamond. This graphic is an example of hazard communication. By reading the sign a lab worker, visitor or emergency responder will be able to tell roughly what they are walking into. They are alerted to special hazards. They are also given contact information for the lab personnel.

The hazard diamond can be a source of confusion, though. It works very well for conveying the hazardous nature of a single compound (see above example). You will often see the diamond on a large compressed gas tank for that reason.

In laboratories, however, there are almost always multiple chemicals. A single hazard diamond can only roughly represent the hazards inside.

A composite method is usually employed...

The door sign program allows for greater detail than the diamond alone...