

How to Read an NFPA Label

The NFPA diamond label is used to warn firefighters and other emergency responders of the hazards they would be exposed to in a fire or chemical spill situation.

Flammability Hazard

- 0 = Will not burn.
- 1 = Must be considerably pre-heated to ignite.
- 2 = Must be moderately heated or exposed to high ambient temperatures to ignite.
- 3 = Capable of igniting under most ambient conditions.
- 4 = Easily ignite, or ignite spontaneously in air.

Health Hazard

- 0 = Materials that offer no hazard beyond that of ordinary combustible materials.
- 1 = Materials that can cause significant irritation.
- 2 = Materials that can cause temporary incapacitation or residual injury.
- 3 = Materials that can cause serious or permanent injury.
- 4 = Materials that can be lethal.

Colors indicate the type of hazard
Numbers indicate the degree of hazard




If you need assistance in understanding the meaning of these labels, contact your supervisor or ES&H Team.

Instability Hazard

- 0 = Normally stable even under fire conditions.
- 1 = Normally stable materials that can become unstable at elevated temperatures and pressures.
- 2 = Materials that readily undergo violent chemical change at elevated temperatures and pressures.
- 3 = Materials capable of detonation, or explosive decomposition, or explosive reaction, but that require a strong initiating source, or that must be heated under confinement before initiation.
- 4 = Materials readily capable of detonation or explosive decomposition or explosive reaction at normal temperatures and pressures.

Other Hazards

- W** = water reactive
- OX** = oxidizer
- COR** = corrosive
- ACID** = acidic
- ALK** = alkaline or caustic
-  = radioactive

These are examples; other symbols may be present.