*Lincoln County*
*Hazard Communication*
*Safety Training Handout – 2010*

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## *What Is My "Right To Know"?*

**You have the right and need to know about what chemicals you work with**, what hazards they pose and how to protect yourself from them.


## *Hazardous Chemicals*

- **Any chemical which is a physical or health hazard** is considered a Hazardous Chemical**.**
- **Physical Hazards** – reactions that could occur if chemicals are handled or stored improperly. This could result in a fire, explosion, and/or toxic gas release.
- **Health Hazards** – health effects caused directly by the chemicals themselves. Chemical materials can cause health problems under the wrong conditions.

## *Forms of Hazardous Chemicals*

- **Solids** – A solid has a definite shape and volume regardless of the container into which it is placed.
- **Liquid** – A quantity of liquid has a definite volume, but takes on the shape of its container.
- **Gas** – A quantity of gas has the shape and volume of the container it occupies. Vapors are gases formed when liquid evaporates.

## *Effects of Chemicals*

The effects of chemicals on the human body depend on several factors including:

- **The form of chemical**; solid, liquid or gas.
- **How the chemical contacts the body**; ingestion, inhalation, or absorption.
- **The amount, or dose**, that the body receives.
- **How toxic or poisonous** the chemical is.

## *Routes of Entry*

Hazardous chemicals can enter your body through inhalation, ingestion, contact with the skin, or through the eyes.

## *How Can I Learn About Hazardous Chemicals and Protect Myself?*

- **Rules Apply To -** Any chemical that employees may be exposed to under normal conditions in the workplace or in a foreseeable emergency.
- **The Written Hazard Communications Program Must Be Available –** A copy can be obtained from your immediate supervisor. In addition, a copy can be obtained at the Human Resources/Safety office.
- **Labels –** Check labels prior to using for chemical name, appropriate warning hazards (may use words, pictures, symbols or a combination to provide general information) such as appropriate PPE, safe handling practices and proper emergency response. All containers must be labeled. Do not use materials from unlabeled containers. Never deface or remove labels.
- **Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) –** The MSDS is the primary written means of conveying information concerning chemical hazards to employers and employees. Hazard communication rules require that 12 different information items be included on an MSDS. These include: chemical name, company information, physical and chemical characteristics, physical hazard, health hazard, primary routes of chemical entry, permissible exposure limits, whether the chemical is a carcinogen, precautions necessary for safe use, known control measures, emergency and first aid procedures, date of MSDS preparation or date of last change.
- **Training on safe use practices –** Training is required at the time of an employee's initial assignment to work with or around hazardous substances or whenever a new hazardous substance is introduced into the work area. Such training should include: hazard communication rules, hazardous tasks, and location of written Hazard Communications program. Specific training for those who work with hazardous chemicals should include: methods to detect hazardous chemicals, physical and health hazards, measures to protect employees, and specific company hazard communication program procedures.