

# NFPA 704 Hazardous Materials Identification System

Signs shall be in locations approved by the Code Official and as a minimum shall be posted at the following locations:

- (1) Two exterior walls or enclosures containing a means of access to a building or facility
- (2) Each access to a room or area
- (3) Each principal means of access to an exterior storage area



NFPA Sign and Letter Dimension Reference Chart

Size of Sign	"A" Side Size	"B" Letter Height (in)	"C" Height and Width (in)
7 ½	7 ½	3.0	10.6
10	10.0	4.0	14.1
15	15.0	6.0	21.2
18	18.0	7.2	25.5
24	24.0	9.6	33.9
30	30.0	12.0	42.4

# NFPA Hazard Identification System

## Flammability

Susceptibility of Material to Burning.

(Red)

<b>0</b>	Material will not burn.	Example: water
<b>1</b>	Material must be pre-heated before ignition can occur.	Example: corn oil
<b>2</b>	Material must be moderately heated or exposed to relatively high ambient temperature before ignition can occur.	Example: diesel fuel oil
<b>3</b>	Liquids and solids that can be ignited under almost all ambient temperature conditions.	Example: gasoline
<b>4</b>	Materials that will rapidly or completely vaporize at atmospheric pressure and normal ambient temperature, or that are readily dispersed in air and that will burn readily.	Example: propane gas

## Health Hazard

Type of Possible Injury.

(Blue)

<b>0</b>	Material that on exposure under fire conditions would offer no hazard beyond that of ordinary combustible material.	Example: peanut oil
<b>1</b>	Material that on exposure would cause irritation but only minor residual injury.	Example: turpentine
<b>2</b>	Material that on intense or continued but not chronic exposure could cause temporary incapacitation or possible residual injury.	Example: ammonia gas
<b>3</b>	Material that on short exposure could cause serious temporary or residual injury.	Example: chlorine gas
<b>4</b>	Material that on very short exposure could cause death or major residual injury.	Example: hydrogen cyanide

## Reactivity

Susceptibility of Material to Burning.



(Yellow)

<b>0</b>	Material that in itself is normally stable, even under fire exposure conditions, and is not reactive with water	Example: liquid nitrogen
<b>1</b>	Material that in itself is normally stable, but which can become unstable at elevated temperatures and pressures.	Example: phosphorus (red or white)
<b>2</b>	Material that readily undergoes violent chemical change at elevated temperatures and pressures or which reacts violently with water or which may form explosive mixtures with water.	Example: calcium metal
<b>3</b>	Material that in itself is capable of detonation or explosive decomposition or reaction but requires a strong initiating source or which must be heated under confinement before initiation or which reacts explosively with water.	Example: fluorine gas
<b>4</b>	Material that in itself is readily capable of detonation or of explosive decomposition or reaction at normal temperatures and pressures.	Example: trinitrotoluene (TNT)

# Special Precautions Protective Gear Required (White)

## Special Precautions

The fourth, white, field of the hazard signal can have variable content, depending on who prepared the signal. The 1990 edition of the National Fire Codes (section 704, chapter 5) specifies only two symbols. Additional symbols are commonly included. The field may also be left blank if no special hazards are present.

Symbols specified in National Fire Codes, section 704	
	Material shows unusual reactivity with water (i.e. don't put water on it). Example: magnesium metal
<b>OX</b>	Material possesses oxidizing properties. Example: ammonium nitrate (fertilizer used in Oklahoma City bomb)
Other symbols commonly used	
<b>ACID</b>	Material is an acid.
<b>ALK</b>	Material is a base (alkaline).
<b>COR</b>	Material is corrosive.
	Material is radioactive.