HAZARD COMMUNICATION

TOOLBOX TALKS

HEALTHIER WORKFORCE CENTER of the MIDWEST

The Global Harmony System (GHS) is a system that uses pictograms to classify health, physical, and environmental hazards of chemicals.

Judith's Story

Judith, a janitor, just finished cleaning the floor using a mixture that contains acetone. Acetone is a solvent and the label on the bottle has a picture of flames inside a diamond. On her way to break, she lit up a cigarette and threw the match into the bucket. The bucket with the solvent mixture caught on fire.

GHS Labels

Flammables Catch fire when exposed to an ignition source or when unstable. E.g., gasoline. 	**Oxidizers** Cause materials to burn or intensify fire and combust. E.g., peroxides. 	**Explosives** Might explode if exposed to fire, hea shock or friction or even without air. E.g., peroxides. 
Corrosives Damage the skin irreversibly after contact for up to 4 hours with ulcers, bleeding, scabs. E.g., battery acids. 	**Irritants** Are harmful when ingested, inhaled or through skin contact. May cause headache, nausea, dizziness and/or breathing difficulties. E.g., cleaning products. 	**Gases Under Pressure** The pressurized container may explode if heated. E.g., propane, nitrous oxide. 
Aquatic Hazards Are toxic to aquatic organisms and may cause long lasting effects in the environment. E.g., coal tar, mercury-based chemicals. 	**Acute Toxicity** Cause life threatening effects even in small amounts and with short exposure. E.g., acetone. 	**Specific Health Hazards** Cause serious and prolonged health effects from short or long-term exposure. E.g., arsenic. 

Talk About It

- How could the fire in Judith's story have been prevented?
- Are you familiar with GHS symbols?
- Do you know how to interpret GHS symbols?

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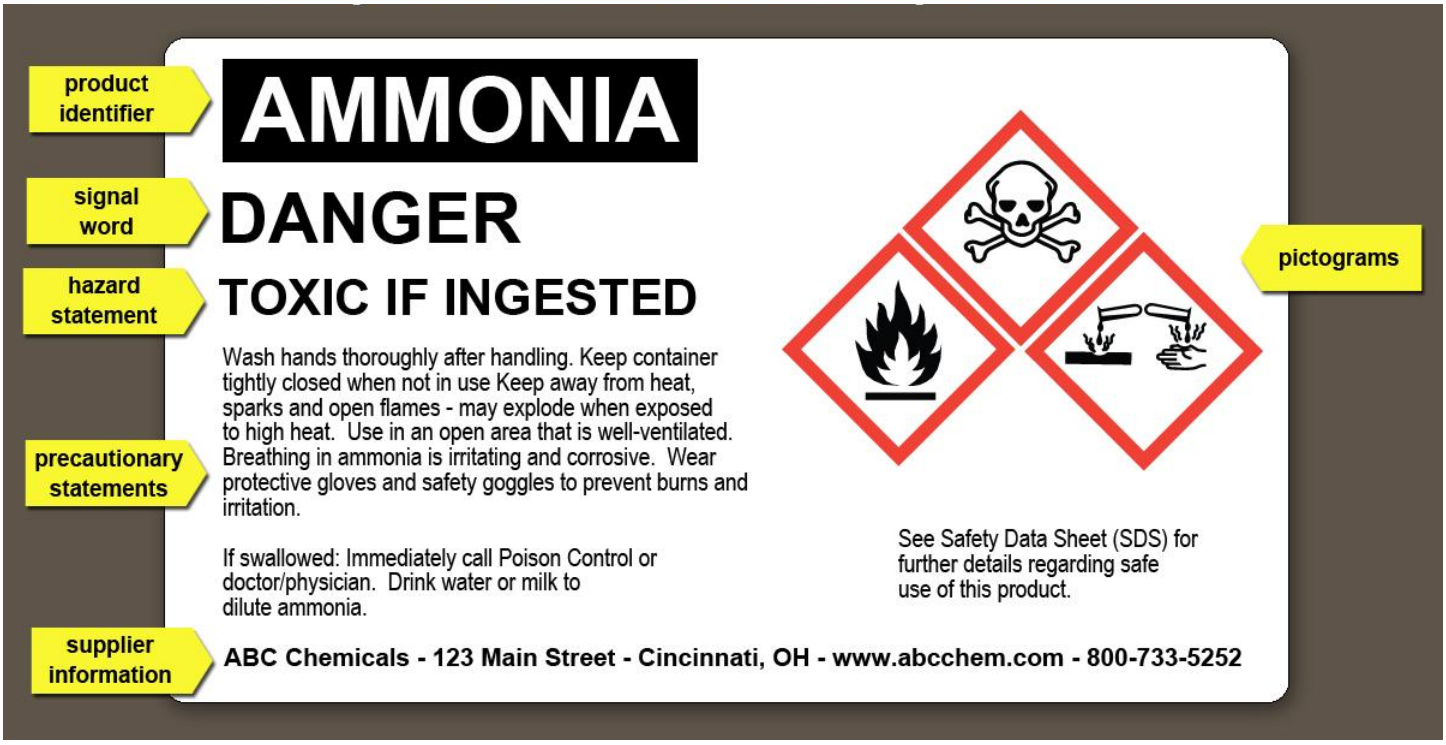
Components Of A GHS-Compliant Label



- What happens if ammonia comes in contact with your skin?
- What does the picture of fire on the label indicate?
- What precautionary measures should be taken when handling ammonia?

Match the pictogram with its hazard

Skin and eye irritation. Might also cause dizziness, headache, and nausea.

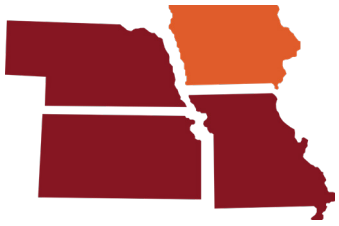
Produces health effects.

Explodes when it comes in contact with heat or fire.

Acute toxicity.

Harmful to the environment and aquatic lives.

Irreversible damage to the skin.



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