

# HAZARD

# COMMUNICATION



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



## 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?

## 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, heat, 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.



**HEALTHIER  
WORKFORCE  
CENTER.ORG**

# COMPONENTS OF A GHS-COMPLIANT LABEL

|                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>product identifier</b>       | <b>AMMONIA</b>  |  <p><b>pictograms</b></p> |
| <b>signal word</b>              | <b>DANGER</b>   |   |
| <b>hazard statement</b>         | <b>TOXIC IF INGESTED</b>  |   |
| <b>precautionary statements</b> | <p>Wash hands thoroughly after handling. Keep container tightly closed when not in use. Keep away from heat, sparks and open flames - may explode when exposed to high heat. Use in an open area that is well-ventilated. Breathing in ammonia is irritating and corrosive. Wear protective gloves and safety goggles to prevent burns and irritation.</p> <p>If swallowed: Immediately call Poison Control or doctor/physician. Drink water or milk to dilute ammonia.</p> |   |
| <b>supplier information</b>     | <b>ABC Chemicals - 123 Main Street - Cincinnati, OH - www.abcchem.com - 800-733-5252</b>  |   |

See Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for further details regarding safe use of this product.

- 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

|  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
|  | <p>Skin and eye irritation. Might also cause dizziness, headache, and nausea.</p> <p>Produces health effects.</p> |  |  |
|  | <p>Explodes when it comes in contact with heat or fire.</p> <p>Acute toxicity.</p>                                |  |   |
|  | <p>Harmful to the environment and aquatic lives.</p> <p>Irreversible damage to the skin.</p>                      |  |   |