



Hazard Communication



Various chemicals are used in all stages of a performing arts production. Some of the more common exposures include paints and solvents used in relation to scenery, production and set construction, fire retardants and paints applied to costumes, dry ice used for smoke/fog, oil-based and water-based fog fluids used for special effects, pyrotechnics, and makeup.

Basic Guidelines

1. Consult with the EH&S Department and refer to the Campus-specific Hazard Communication Program, procedures, and training requirements.
2. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) per training and as specified by the Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
3. Label all secondary containers with the chemical's name and primary hazard warning.
4. Immediately report chemical spills if you are not a trained responder.
5. Ensure all chemicals are stored in appropriate containers and/or cabinets.

Maintain An Organized Facility

1. Ensure the chemical inventory is updated on a regular basis, in accordance with the guideline set forth in the Hazard Communication Program.
2. Maintain a lean, well-managed chemical inventory
3. Evaluate storage methods to ensure incompatible chemicals are stored separately.
4. Provide appropriate storage cabinets for flammable and combustible materials.
5. Keep corridors free of hazardous materials at all times.
6. Keep containers, including hazardous waste containers, closed except when in use.

Follow Safe Handling Procedures

1. Evaluate the hazards: Read the SDS before beginning work with a chemical.
2. Ensure appropriate PPE is available and used.
3. Never smell chemicals to identify them.
4. Understand the labels/pictograms associated with chemicals being used and proceed accordingly.
5. Label all secondary containers.

Be Prepared

1. Clean up only small quantity spills if trained to do so. In the event of a large spill, clean up should be

conducted by specially trained personnel. Inform your supervisor or shop manager of all spills.

2. Know the locations of emergency equipment and how to use it: telephone, first aid kit, fire extinguishers, eyewash and emergency shower, and spill kit (if applicable).

Identify and Handle Hazardous Waste

1. Regularly check hazardous material to identify:
 - a. Use
 - b. Expiration date
 - c. Labeling
 - d. Abandoned
 - e. Containers that once held chemicals
 - f. Unwanted material intended to be discarded or recycled
 - g. Handle hazardous waste as identified in the hazardous waste management program
2. Dispose of waste as directed by the product manufacturer and in accordance with the UC Hazardous Waste Management Plan.
3. Contact the EH&S Department for more information and guidance regarding hazardous and industrial waste management. They will provide guidance regarding:
 - a. Proper storage of the waste until it is collected
 - b. Proper labeling of the waste containers
 - c. Special handling requirements based on the hazard characteristics of the waste

Talk to your supervisor if you have any questions about this information.