Workplace Hazards: What They Are and How to Spot Them Infographic



— Warning! —

Different Hazard Signs & What They Mean

Hazard signs are a prevalent sight in laboratories and industrial workplaces. The information they convey is crucial for workplace safety, but they may not always be familiar to those working there. Here are some of the most common variations and what they mean.



BIOHAZARD

This indicates the presence of harmful microorganisms such as viruses, bacteria and other toxins. This is frequently found on containers for the disposal of medical waste such as used syringes.



LASER

Devices that depend on high-powered lasers must bear these warning signs. Anyone entering areas where these are used should be equipped with eye protection and avoid looking directly into the source.



CORROSIVE

Workers must use specialized safety gloves when handling these materials, as they can burn or dissolve skin and other substances on contact.



RADIOACTIVE

This announces that radioactive materials are present. Anyone working in the area should be protected with radiation suits.



HIGH VOLTAGE

Equipment labeled with this kind of sign uses or generates enough electricity to seriously injure or kill a person. Only trained and authorized technicians should be allowed to access it.



HOT SURFACE

Anything bearing this sign can become extremely hot to the touch. Workers should avoid it or use caution that they do not burn themselves or others.



POISON

Materials bearing this symbol are poisonous and should not be swallowed, inhaled or handled without protective gloves. It also may highlight an area in which these poisons are present.



FLAMMABLE

Anything marked with this symbol needs to be kept away from open flames as well as heat sources and sparks. They are in danger of sudden combustion and can cause explosions.



EXTREME COLD

Often found in chemical storage areas, this indicates extremely low temperatures. Care must be taken not to expose skin or other sensitive items under these conditions.



WET FLOOR

A sign found in practically any work environment, this is used to mark an area where mopping has just occurred or there is an increased risk of spills.



MOVING VEHICLES

Whether forklifts, trucks or another type of vehicle, this alerts workers that heavy equipment passes through the area frequently. Anyone on foot should keep his or her eyes open while passing through these areas.

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