

NFPA 704

NFPA labels indicate chemical hazards within a laboratory building or chemical storage area, and are often included on chemical labels or the SDS. The NFPA diamond summarizes the hazards within a posted area, and is used primarily to alert emergency response personnel to acute chemical hazards that are present. The NFPA diamond indicates:

Health –the following applies for chemicals present in small amounts:

- 4 – fatality likely
- 3 – permanent injury
- 2 – serious injury
- 1 – minor injury
- 0 – injury unlikely

Flammability

- 4 - Vaporizes completely at normal P & T...burns readily
- 3 – Can be ignited under almost all ambient conditions
- 2 – Ignition requires moderate to high heating
- 1 – Ignition requires substantial preheating
- 0 – Not combustible

Reactivity - at standard Temperature & Pressure

- 4 - Explosive detonation, decomposition or reaction
- 3 – explosive reaction requires heat or water initiation
- 2 – readily violent decomposition or reaction w/water but no detonation
- 1 – normally stable unless elevated heat, pressure...H₂O reaction potential
- 0 – normally stable, not H₂O reactive

White – refers to one of the following hazards:

- W- indicates the presence of a water reactive chemical
- OX - indicates an oxidizer
- SA - indicates a simple asphyxiant

