



Safety Matters

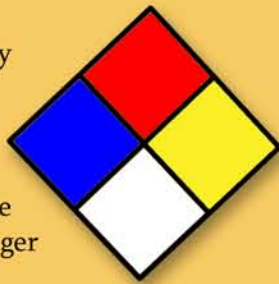
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The Fire Diamond

The symbol on the right, known as a "Fire Diamond," can be seen whether you work in an industry surrounded by hazardous materials, or are a typical civilian driving around town. Often it is seen affixed to trucks transporting hazardous chemicals, or on buildings indicating the storage of dangerous substances. But, can you unravel the dangers lurking behind a Fire Diamond?



Each of the four colors (blue, red, yellow, and white) indicates a specific type of hazard. The number placed over the corresponding color, ranging from Zero to Four, represent the level of danger present. Zero indicates the least potential of hazard or danger, and four indicates the highest.

FLAMMABILITY (Susceptibility of Materials Burning)

- 4** Materials which will rapidly or completely vaporize at atmospheric pressure and normal ambient temperature, or which are readily dispersed in air and which will burn readily.
- 3** Liquids and solids that can be ignited under almost all ambient temperature conditions.
- 2** Materials that must be moderately heated or exposed to relatively high ambient temperatures before ignition can occur.
- 1** Materials that must be preheated before ignition can occur.
- 0** Materials that will not burn.


REACTIVITY (Susceptibility to Release Energy)

- 4** Materials which in themselves are readily capable of detonation or of explosive decomposition or reaction at normal temperatures and pressures.
- 3** Materials which in themselves are capable of detonation or of explosive reaction but require a strong initiating source or which must be heated under confinement before initiation or which react explosively with water.
- 2** Materials which in themselves are normally unstable and readily undergo violent chemical change but do not detonate. Also materials which may react violently with water or which may form potentially explosive mixtures with water.
- 1** Materials which in themselves are normally stable, but which can become unstable at elevated temperatures and pressures or which may react with water with some release of energy, but not violently.
- 0** Materials which in themselves are normally stable, even under fire exposure conditions, and which are not reactive with water.

HEALTH HAZARD (Type of Possible Injury)

- 4** Materials which on very short exposure could cause death or major residual injury even though prompt medical treatment was given.
- 3** Materials which on short exposure could cause serious temporary or residual injury even through prompt medical treatment was given.
- 2** Materials which on intense or continued exposure could cause serious temporary incapacitation or possible residual injury unless prompt medical treatment was given.
- 1** Materials which on exposure could cause serious temporary incapacitation or possible residual injury even if medical treatment is given.
- 0** Materials which on exposure under fire conditions would offer no hazard beyond that of ordinary combustible material.

SPECIAL (Special Notice Section)

- 'W'** Material reacts with water in an unusual or dangerous manner.
- 'OX'** Material is an oxidizer that readily transfers oxygen atoms.
- 'COR'** Material is a corrosive strong acid or base.
- 'BIO'** Material is biohazardous and poses a threat to human health.
-  Contains radioactive materials.

For more information about the Fire Diamond, click [here](#).

Remember... Safety Matters.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome and encouraged.



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