

Subject:	HAZARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM
Section:	PPG# 4200.8
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1 This program was developed by Thurston County Fire Protection District 5 & 9 to ensure the protection of members/employees by providing information and training regarding the hazards and identities of the chemicals they may be potentially exposed to in the course of their work in the fire station, as well as the measures they can take to protect themselves. Each member/employee shall receive information regarding the agency's Hazard Communication Program. In addition, those employees who are exposed (or potentially exposed) to hazardous chemicals as a result of their work duties in the fire station shall receive additional information and training as required by this policy.
- 1.2 Members/employees shall be trained in these procedures and are required to strictly adhere to them.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **Chemical** means any element, chemical compound or mixture of elements and/or compounds
- 2.2 **Chemical manufacturer** means an employer with a workplace where chemical(s) are produced for use or distribution,
- 2.3 **Exposure or exposed** means that an employee is subjected in the course of employment to a chemical that is a physical or health hazard, and includes potential (e.g. accidental or possible) exposure. "Subjected" in terms of health hazards includes any route of entry (e.g. inhalation, ingestion, skin contact or absorption.)
- 2.4 **Hazardous chemical** means any chemical, which is a physical hazard or a health hazard.
- 2.5 **Health hazard** means a chemical for which there is statistically significant evidence based on at least one study conducted in accordance with established scientific principles that acute or chronic health effects may occur in exposed employees. The term "health hazard" includes chemicals which are carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatoxins, nephrotoxins, neurotoxins, agents which act on the hematopoietic system, and agents which damage the

lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes.

- 2.6** *Label* means any written, printed, or graphic material displayed on or affixed to containers of hazardous chemicals.
- 2.7** *Material Safety Data Sheet* (MSDS) means written or printed material concerning a hazardous chemical
- 2.8** *Physical hazard* means a chemical for which there is scientifically valid evidence that it is combustible liquid, a compressed gas, explosive, flammable, an organic peroxide, an oxidizer, pyrophoric, unstable (reactive) or water reactive.
- 2.9** *Work area* means a room or defined space in the fire station where hazardous chemicals are used and members/employees are present.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1** The Assistant Chief of Operations is responsible for the overall administration of the Department hazard communication policy and will maintain a master list of Material Data Sheets (MSDS) used in the station
- 3.2** All officers/supervisors are responsible for ensuring that their respective members/employees receive adequate information and training in accordance with the training requirements this policy.
- 3.3** It is also the responsibility of each member/employee covered by this policy to bring to the officer on duty any unsafe or hazardous conditions or practices that may cause injury to either themselves or any other member/employee.

4.0 GUIDELINES

- 4.1** Hazardous Chemical inventory. The Safety Officer is responsible for preparing and maintaining a current list of hazardous chemicals in the respective work areas, or offices.
- 4.2** Container Labeling. Officers as designated in the written hazard communication program, will ensure that all hazardous chemicals received in their area of responsibility are labeled to include the following:
- a). The identity of the hazardous chemical(s) used on the MSDS.
 - b). The appropriate hazard warning.
 - c). The name and address of the manufacturer
- 4.3** Containers into which hazardous chemicals are transferred must be labeled, tagged or marked with the identity of the hazardous chemical(s), and hazard warnings. The identity may be any chemical or common name, which is indicated on the MSDS and will permit

cross-reference to be made among the list of hazardous chemicals, the label and the MSDS.

- 4.4** Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's). The MSDS is used to relay chemical hazard information from the manufacturer to the user and must be maintained at the workplace in which it is used. A copy of the written hazard communication program and applicable MSDS's shall be kept at a central location(s) to ensure that employees can immediately access the information contained in these documents.
- 4.5** Training. All agency employees will be informed on both the WISHA Hazard Communication Program and the requirements of this policy. Those employees who are directly exposed (or potentially exposed) to hazardous chemicals in the fire station must receive additional information and training on the particular hazards of the chemicals to which they are exposed or potentially exposed.
- 4.6** Exposed (or potentially exposed) member/employee training shall include:
- a) Methods and observations that may be used to detect the presence or release of hazardous chemicals.
 - b) Physical and health hazards of chemicals in the work area.
 - c) Measures employees can take to protect themselves from the hazards.
 - d) The details of this policy and written hazard communication program.
- 4.7** All employees will be informed of:
- a) The hazard communication standard requirements.
 - b) Any operations in their work areas where hazardous chemicals are present.

5.0 REFERENCES

WAC 296-305-01509

6.0 APPENDIX

Written Hazard Communication Program