

Hazard Identification Program (HIP) Signs

All laboratories that uses or stores hazardous materials (biological, chemical, or radioactive) should have HIP signs posted. If access is needed into an area that has posted hazardous signs, always consult with personnel before entering and make sure the room is secure when you leave.

The information on the signs include:

- Symbols
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- Emergency Contacts

1. Symbols

The symbols used on the signs indicate the presence of one or more of the following:

- Toxic chemicals and gases
- Biological hazards
- Radioactive hazards
- Cancer-causing and suspected cancer-causing chemicals
- Reproductive hazards

Food and beverage are **PROHIBITED** in these rooms.



Figure 2: Examples of symbols used on HIP signs

2. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) hazard identification system uses a color-coded diamond to represent four different hazards and numbers to identify the severity of that hazard.

The different colors represent three different types of hazard that may be associated with chemicals:

- Blue indicates health hazard
- Red indicates flammability
- Yellow indicates reactivity
- White indicates other hazards such as \overline{W} , OX, and SA
 - \overline{W} indicates violent reaction with water
 - OX indicates an oxidizer
 - SA indicates asphyxiant gas



The severity of the hazard is indicated by a numerical rating that ranges from zero (0) indicating a minimal hazard, to four (4) indicating a severe hazard. These numbers are usually located in the blue, red, and yellow diamonds.

- 0: no or minimal hazard
- 1: slight hazard
- 2: serious hazard
- 3: serious hazard
- 4: extreme hazard

More information can be found in the CMNBTR laboratory manual

3. Emergency Contact Information

Emergency contact information listed on signs includes:

- Name and phone numbers for faculty and staff responsible for that location
- TSU Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS)
- TSU Police Department Emergency phone #