

CHEMICAL SAFETY

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Multiple chemical products are often used for agricultural society operations, including for cleaning, insect and pest control and lawn maintenance. All employees or volunteers should be trained about the safe use of any chemical products they might handle.

Care must also be taken to keep chemicals out of the hands of the public, and to store and dispose of them in a safe manner. Chemical products should be used only for their intended purposes per the manufacturer's directions along with any appropriate personal protective equipment as indicated on labels or the safety data sheet.



SAFETY DATA SHEETS

It is important to know which chemical products are being used throughout the fairgrounds and any corresponding safety and health hazards related to their use. An important method to learn more about the products is to obtain and reference safety data sheets.

A safety data sheet explains key details about a chemical product, including the name, composition, common hazards, first aid and cleanup procedures, as well as what personal protective equipment should be used when handling the chemical. Safety data sheets also include pictograms and precautionary statements that provide a quick overview of the hazards associated with the chemical.

Safety data sheets can be obtained from the product manufacturer or distributor or with an Internet search. All safety data sheets should be kept in an easy-to-access location.



Safety Data Sheets help users understand safety and health hazards related to chemicals they may use.

HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Certain chemical products may be hazardous if inhaled, ingested or through contact with the skin and eyes. Users should follow the manufacturer directions on the container and ensure personal protective equipment is provided and used as instructed.

Users should always consider proper ventilation when using strong chemicals in an enclosed space and wear goggles, gloves or other protection devices if chemicals pose a contact hazard. Users should wash hands prior to eating after working with any poisons or pesticide products.

If corrosive chemicals are stored and used on the fairgrounds, consideration should be given to installing an emergency eyewash and shower station to allow employees or volunteers to rinse their eyes or bodies in the event of contact with chemicals.

Alternatively, less hazardous options could be substituted for the corrosive chemicals. The Environmental Protection Agency provides information about selecting less hazardous cleaning chemicals, which may be helpful. See EPA.gov/saferchoice/products.

Certain poisons are often placed in buildings during the off-season as a means of rodent or other pest

control. If there is potential for people or exhibit animals to come in contact with them, these poisons should be removed from buildings prior to the run of the fair and stored in a secure location. This helps prevent contact or ingestion by exhibit animals and people.

Agricultural societies should take care when storing strong or hazardous cleaning chemicals or agents to prevent spills, damage or access to children. Furthermore, some chemicals may not be compatibly stored with others or in specific environments; always consult the safety data sheets for guidance on storage.



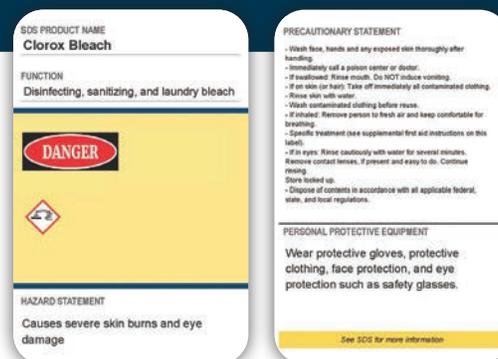
Emergency eyewash and shower stations allow employees or volunteers to rinse off in case of chemical contact.

CHEMICAL CONTAINER LABELING

Although it is important to know which chemicals are being used, it is just as important to be able to identify chemicals when transferred to secondary containers, such as spray bottles. Care must be taken not to store containers with the chemical still inside and unlabeled. This creates a potential hazard for the next person who uses the spray bottle not knowing what it contains.

Chemical product containers should always have a label indicating the product name and hazards. Labels should be specific, for example “Bathroom Cleaner” could refer to many different chemicals and make quick identification difficult.

Labels can also become faded with time and wear off. If a label becomes illegible, it should be replaced with identifying information as detailed above.



Labeling on secondary containers for chemicals must be clear about the substance and its hazards.

CHEMICAL AND FLAMMABLE STORAGE

Some chemical products may be flammable. Gasoline and certain wasp and hornet spray are commonly stored at fairgrounds. Accelerants such as gasoline and other flammables should be stored away from emergency exits and possible ignition sources. Consider storing these items in flammable storage cabinets or in special rooms with fire-rated walls, ceilings and doors.

Additionally gasoline should be stored in safety cans with self-closing lids and flame arresters.

Further considerations regarding chemical and flammable storage include:

- Posting signs or warnings such as “no smoking” or other signs to both raise awareness of the flammable materials and discourage ignition sources from being placed or used nearby.
- Fire extinguishers should be placed near flammable storage but not directly adjacent to them, so they can be easily accessed in the event of a fire.



Consider storing accelerants in flammable storage cabinets.

- Strong oxidizers or acids may not be compatibly stored with flammables and should have storage of their own. Consult safety data sheets to determine storage compatibility of flammable materials or chemicals.
- Flammable cabinet or flammable storage room doors should remain closed and latched to prevent accidental opening. Door props should not be used in flammable storage rooms.