



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

NFPA 704 POSTING GUIDELINES

A business that is required to complete a Business Emergency Plan under the California Health and Safety Code Chapter 6.95 and Riverside County Ordinance 651, must post the appropriate NFPA 704 signs unless they are exempt. The following are the posting guidelines:

The acceptable sizes of NFPA 704 signs are:

- 4 inches on each side with 2-inch symbols (interior posting)
- 10 inches on each side with 4-inch symbols
- 15 inches on each side with 6-inch symbols

The number or symbol used shall indicate the most severe hazard associated with any hazardous material at the business. An example would be if a business handles a material with a flammability “4” rating, another material with a “4” health rating and another material with a “4” reactivity rating, the NFPA 704 sign would have all fours in the respective diamonds.

The numbers on the NFPA 704 sign should reflect the materials that are required to be disclosed.

Access points to each building are to be posted either to the side or above the entrance and shall be plainly visible and readable.

If the property is fenced, all access points must be posted immediately adjacent to the gate. Posting on fences shall be plainly visible and readable from the nearest public entry point.

Hazardous materials and/or waste storage areas are to be posted immediately adjacent to the access points and shall be plainly visible and readable.

Above ground tanks are to be posted on a visible side and shall be plainly visible and readable. This includes propane, gasoline, diesel, corrosives, etc.

Gasoline stations that handle only motor vehicle fuel stored in underground storage tanks are exempt from posting.

Food serving businesses that handle very cold bulk liquid carbon dioxide for carbonation of beverages over the threshold amount may only post the back door to the business or use smaller than required signs at the front entrance.

The material safety data sheet (MSDS) should have the information on hazard ratings to be used for each material.

For situations not addressed in the guidelines, the Hazardous Materials Management Division will have final authority.

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Corona
2275 S Main St Suite 204
(951) 273-9143
Fax (951) 520-8319

Hemet
800 S. Sanderson
(951) 766-6524
Fax (951) 791-1778

Indio
47-950 Arabia St Suite A
(760) 863-8976
Fax (760) 863-8303

Riverside
4065 County Cir
(951) 358-5055
Fax (951) 358-5017