You Have a Right to Know:
Hazard Communication

Workers need protection from chemicals in our workplace especially since some chemicals present considerable harm. In 2012, OSHA change the Hazard Communication Standard to align with UN Global Harmonization Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). This established standards for chemical manufacturers and shippers as well as simplifying things for employers and their workforce.

Employers have four basic duties under the Hazard Communication standard.

1. Employers must create a written hazard communication program that describes how we intend protect employees from hazards associated with chemicals.
2. Employers must create a list of hazardous chemicals detailing their use and where they are stored in the workplace.
3. An employer must maintain Safety Data Sheets. Each manufacturer is required to provide Safety Data Sheets for each chemical. These sheets should be maintained and accessible to employees or anyone working in that area.
4. Each employer is required to provide training on workplace chemicals. This training must include information about specific chemicals in the workplace, about how to read and interpret labels, and how to obtain and read Safety Data Sheets.

Employees must ask their supervisor if they have questions about any chemical in the workplace. Make sure that we read the Safety Data Sheet and follow their recommendations for Personal Protective Equipment, Handling, Storage, Incompatible Chemicals, First Aid Measures, etc. Remember you have right to know and the responsibility to yourself, your family and your coworkers to take the necessary precautions with workplace chemicals.

Things To Do:
• Talk about some of the chemicals used in your workplace. Discuss potential hazards, potentials for employee exposure, necessary Personal Protective Equipment and proper storage.
• Briefly review the Safety Data Sheet of a common workplace chemical to help employees understand how to interpret.
• Make sure employees know the location of Safety Data Sheets.

For more information and additional risk management and prevention tools, visit: **fwcruminsurance.com**

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