

## Fire Marshal Division

### Information Bulletin

### NFPA 704 Placard



The NFPA 704 placard is applicable to industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities that manufacture, process, use, or store hazardous materials. The system assists employees and emergency responders in identifying hazards and their severity from a safe distance. The system identifies the severity of hazards in four broad categories: health, flammability, instability, and special hazards. Each section is identified by a specific color and number. The Health section has a blue background and white number, Flammability is red with a white number, Instability is yellow with a black number, and the Special section will be white with black letters (when applicable).

#### Rating system

Hazard severity is indicated by a numerical rating that ranges from zero (0) indicating a minimal hazard, to four (4) indicating a severe hazard. The special hazards in use include:

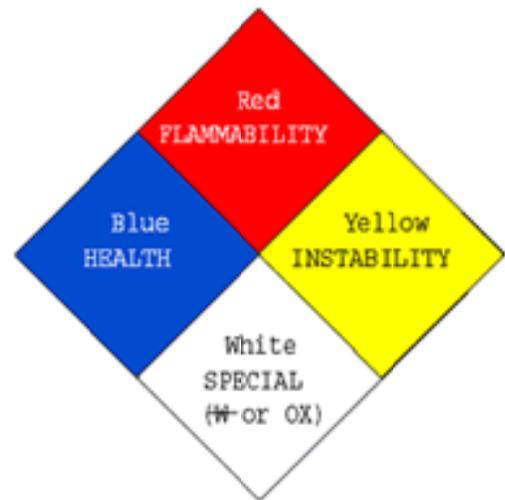
- **W** which indicates unusual reactivity with water and is a caution about the use of water in either firefighting or spill control response
- **OX** which indicates that the material is an oxidizer

#### Interior signage

When required, signs shall be placed outside of the entry point to a hazardous storage area or room within a building. Hazard severity numbers for interior signs shall be not less than: 2" tall, 1.4" wide, with a 5/16" stroke. The exterior edge of the sign shall measure 5" along each of the four faces. The interior perimeter of each individual diamond shall measure 2.5" across each side.

#### Exterior signage

When required, signs shall be placed upon two exterior walls of the building, facing the most probable direction of approach by emergency vehicles. Exterior signs shall utilize numbers that are not less than: 6" tall, 4.2" wide, with a 15/16" stroke. The exterior edge of the sign shall measure 15" along each of the four faces. The interior perimeter of each individual diamond shall measure 7 1/2" across each side. Exterior signs shall be placed not less than 12' or more than 24' above grade.



Please contact the City of Charleston Fire Department – Fire Marshal Division at (843)724-3429 with any additional questions.