



# MAFES Dawg Tracks

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Understanding Material Safety



## What is a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)?

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) are documents that contain information on the chemical make-up, use, storage, handling, emergency procedures and the potential health-effects related to a hazardous material. The MSDS contains much more needed information than the label on the product. The manufacturer of the product is responsible for preparing and writing the MSDS.

## Purpose of a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)-

- ✓ Explanation of the chemical make-up.
- ✓ Details of the physical properties or fast acting health effects that makes the product dangerous to handle.
- ✓ A list of the personal protective gear that is needed to work safety with the product.
- ✓ The required FIRST AID treatment needed in case someone is exposed to the material.
- ✓ Details of pre-planning needs for safe handling of spills, fires, and the day-to-day operations.
- ✓ How to respond to accidents.

## Information Found on Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) - (9 items)-

- Chemical Identity
- Health Hazard Data
- Manufacturer Information
- Precautions for Safe Handling & Use.
- Hazardous Ingredients
- Exposure Controls/Personal Protection
- Physical & Chemical Properties
- Fire and Explosion Hazard Data

The information discussed in the prior section may not tell you all that is needed to know. As an example, health hazard information is usually presented in general terms, so more research may be required to get the day-to-day facts for health hazards.

According to reports, the health hazard effects were presented in general terms because early on they were to be used by safety professionals, industrial hygienists and chemical engineers. And now we know that the MSDSs are used by employers, employees, emergency responders, and anyone else needed to use the required information.

All MSDSs aren't formatted in the same way. Federal laws required what information is required for them, but various companies use the required information, but organize it in different ways.

The MSDSs should always be used to identify the hazards of the product before starting to use the product. Some sections of the MSDSs might be used more than others, depending on the person's job that is referring to it. The basics remain the same for all products requiring a MSDS. You must know the name of the product or material, know the hazards, understand the safe handling, the storage requirements, and understand what to do in an emergency.

The Hazard Communications requires employers to maintain inventories, maintain current MSDS for their products, and training for its employees.

**BE CAREFUL WORKING WITH CHEMICAL BATHS --YOU MIGHT END UP TAKING A SHOWER!!**

**SAFE TODAY<>> ALIVE TOMORROW**

Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt. / Loss Control Mgr.  
MAFES / MSU-ES  
(662) 566-2201 8/8/2012

Excerpts: [www.statefundca.com/safety](http://www.statefundca.com/safety)