



MAFES Dawg Tracks

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*Understanding Material
Safety Data Sheets*



DEFINITION: MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS-

- A material safety data sheet is also known or called a MSDS. It is an informational sheet that is available for each hazardous chemical used in various types of operations.
- The MSDS is one of two places where you'll find information about the chemical's properties, characteristics and hazards. The other place is the product label.
- Chemical companies are required by law to make these sheets available to their clientele.
- Before you begin work with a chemical, you should check to see if it does have a MSDS. If you don't find it or have trouble reading it, see your supervisor or a co-worker for help before you start a project that involves the MSDS.
- Return the MSDS to the file after you have finished using it.

PRODUCTS THAT USE THE MSDS-

- There are many different types of products that use MSDSs.
These include paint thinners, disinfectants, pesticides, diesel fuel and gasoline.
- MSDS aren't required for personal care products such as perfume, deodorants, hand soap, hand cream or sunscreens.

DO:

- Ask where the MSDSs are filed (if you don't already know).
- Find the emergency phone number and emergency information procedures.
- Get help if you can't find or read the MSDS.

DON'T:

- Be confused by different MSADS formats.
- Overlook the important health data section.
- Expect to find an MSDS for hand soap or other personal care products.

HOW TO READ THE MSDS-

- Each MSDS might look slightly different. But, don't get confused! They all contain the same information.
- The important items to look for is how the chemical can affect your health, emergency telephone numbers and the emergency steps you need to follow.

UNDERSTANDING THE CONTENTS OF THE MSDS-

All MSDSs are not formatted in the same order but all of them will contain the same information as follows below:

Name of the product, manufacturer's name and an emergency telephone number – This is generally found at the top of the page.

Hazardous Ingredients – This section will list the hazardous ingredients within the chemical.

Physical and chemical data – This section describes the chemical smell and looks.

Fire and explosion – This section tells you what you should use to combat or put the fire out.

Reactivity – This section tells you what to avoid mixing the chemical with or exposing it to.

HEALTH HAZARD ITEMS-

- **Health hazard data-** This section tells you how it enters the body, symptoms to watch for and emergency steps to follow in case you're exposed.
- **Safe handling and use** – Explains how to safely handle and store the chemical
- **Control measures** – This tells you what type of personal protective equipment to use when handling the chemical.

**HEALTH & SAFETY =
2 SHORT COMMANDMENTS
THAT GUARANTEE YOU
A LONGER LIFE!!**

X<x<x<x<x

**GOOD HABITS WILL NORMALLY
KEEP YOU OUT OF BAD TROUBLE!!**