Working with Dangerous Goods – Safe Storage Fatality File

Two employees sustain respiratory irritation, chest pain, and skin irritation

At 11:00 a.m. on May 5, 2017, an employee was transporting two pallets from the dangerous goods storage area at the rear of the WFS warehouse to door #3 on the loading dock for pick-up by DHL. Each pallet contained four 50 kg metal drums of origanum oil. Origanum oil is a corrosive chemical used as a food additive. When the employee arrived with the second pallet, the DHL courier who was picking up the drums alerted the employee that oil was leaking from a drum. The WFS supervisor was notified, who in turn notified other supervisors. The assistant general manager responded.

Employees from WFS, DHL and a driver from MRZ Trucking were instructed to leave the area of the spill. The assistant general manager checked the UN number of the chemical, consulted the Emergency Response Guidebook, and retrieved a spill kit to try to contain the spillage. PAPD arrived to take control of the situation with EMTs. The Pennsylvania environmental response team arrived later.

PAPD asked the general manager to guard the area to keep other employees away. The assistant general manager was positioned about 10 feet from the spill with little ventilation. The building doors were closed due to airport security reasons. The building was a large open warehouse.

The building was evacuated. Eight people were examined by EMTs. Some people received supplementary oxygen. The general manager and a warehouse agent were taken to Jamaica Hospital for treatment and released later the same day. The two employee sustained respiratory irritation, chest pain, and skin irritation.

Source: osha.gov/

Working with Dangerous Goods – Safe Storage Picture This – Spanish



Los barriles de productos químicos están apilados de forma desordenada y desigual, lo que crea un grave riesgo de derrumbamiento, vertido o lesiones. Algunos contenedores parecen inestables, y no hay contención secundaria visible ni señalización que indique la naturaleza de las sustancias. Esto plantea riesgos de fugas, exposición a sustancias químicas y lesiones físicas por la caída de bidones.

Las mercancías peligrosas deben almacenarse de forma segura en superficies planas y estables, utilizando técnicas de apilamiento adecuadas. Los barriles deben estar claramente etiquetados, separados por compatibilidad y colocados en áreas designadas y ventiladas con contención secundaria. Utilice estanterías o palés de contención para evitar que rueden o vuelquen. Inspeccione periódicamente las zonas de almacenamiento para detectar fugas, corrosión y cumplimiento de la normativa sobre materiales peligrosos.

Working with Dangerous Goods – Safe Storage Picture This



The chemical barrels are stacked haphazardly and unevenly, creating a serious risk of collapse, spillage, or injury. Some containers appear unstable, and there’s no visible secondary containment or signage indicating the nature of the substances. This poses risks of leaks, chemical exposure, and physical injury from falling drums.

Dangerous goods must be stored securely on flat, stable surfaces, using proper stacking techniques. Barrels should be clearly labeled, separated by compatibility, and placed in designated, ventilated areas with secondary containment. Use racks or containment pallets to prevent rolling or toppling. Regularly

inspect storage areas for leaks, corrosion, and compliance with hazardous material regulations.

Newsletter – June 2026

Download the June 2026 newsletter including articles where we focus on building stronger workplace safety programs, from moving beyond check-the-box training to improving real-world skills verification. We also explore the top ways to become a better safety trainer in 2026 and share practical meeting kits on childcare safety.

Newsletter – May 2026

Download the May 2026 newsletter including articles on:

- Why Great Safety Trainers Tell Stories Instead of Reading Slides
- Training Fatigue is Real and It Is Quietly Undermining Workplace Safety
- Why Safety Conversations on the Worksite Reveal More Than Safety Reports
- Safety Talks on Daily Huddles, Roof and Facade Work, Cab Driver Safety and Forklift Safety
- and more…

Newsletter – April 2026

- How To Move Beyond Fault-Finding and Finger Pointing in Workplace Safety;
- Safety Talks on Respiratory Safety, Microbreaks, Extreme Weather, and Workplace Violence;
- Fatality Reports;
- How to Deliver an Effective Safety Talk on Handwashing;
- and more…

ICW Ladder Elimination Challenge

Empower your team with this dynamic Safety Talk!
Dive into the real dangers of ladder use, cover a real-life accident example, and equip workers with proven strategies to stay safe and confident on the job.

Take on the challenge of ladder safety month:

- View the webinar
- Complete the challenge – Earn points through process improvement, building awareness and better decision making.
- Earn your certificate and social media badge
- Empower your team to make better decisions when working from heights.

Need to view the webinar? Click here.

Download Pre-Job Assessment

Ladder Safety:
Environmental Hazards



Ladder Safety:
Ladder Failure



[Download Score Sheet]

Ladder Safety:
Extension Ladder Incident



Ladder Safety:
Ladder Selection



email your score card to rmreports@icwgroup.com by April 30, 2026

Newsletter – March 2026

- From Training to Transfer of Risk: Why Insurers Are Re-Evaluating Safety Programs as an Underwriting Signal in 2026;
- Safety Talks on Glove Selection, Grain Bin Safety, Hitching and Hauling Safety, and Farmers Working Alone;
- Fatality Reports;

- Building Two-Way Safety Conversations Instead of Lectures;
- and more…

Work Comp Anti-Fraud Training – Spanish

Course Description

ICW Group’s Anti-Fraud Training has everything you need to find out how workers’ compensation insurance works to keep you safe and protect you from work comp fraud. Employers and employees alike can watch this video to hear what to do in case of a workplace injury, how to avoid falling prey to a workers’ comp scam, and how workers’ compensation fraud is investigated. You’ll also hear real workers’ comp fraud stories, and learn signs of workers’ comp fraud, as well as consequences of workers’ comp fraud. Also, key to your safety from workers’ compensation fraud, you’ll find out how to report workers’ compensation fraud as well. So, get started today!

Work Comp Anti-Fraud Training

Course Description

ICW Group’s Anti-Fraud Training has everything you need to find out how workers’ compensation insurance works to keep you safe and protect you from work comp fraud. Employers and employees alike

can watch this video to hear what to do in case of a workplace injury, how to avoid falling prey to a workers’ comp scam, and how workers’ compensation fraud is investigated. You’ll also hear real workers’ comp fraud stories, and learn signs of workers’ comp fraud, as well as consequences of workers’ comp fraud. Also, key to your safety from workers’ compensation fraud, you’ll find out how to report workers’ compensation fraud as well. So, get started today!

General Training Calendar

Our workplace safety training is designed to reduce injuries and protect employees across all industries. We provide training for manufacturing, warehousing, construction, retail, and more. Keeping operations efficient and employees safe is essential to every business, and our training helps organizations lower risks, prevent accidents, and build a stronger safety culture.

Training topics also include those relevant to all industries that ensure safe work environments and healthy workers such as anti-harassment training and emergency response. These materials educate, inform and inspire better workplaces for all companies.

Download our OHS training calendar as selected by ASSE certified trainers. You can use this calendar to access both online and instructor-led safety training for each month.

Newsletter – February 2026

- The Science of Adult Learning: How to Teach Safety So It Actually Sticks;
- Safety Talks on Accident Prevention, AI Safety, Back Safety and Ladders in Agriculture;
- Fatality Reports;
- The Hidden Cost of Assumed Competency;
- and more…

Your Rights at Work: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in California – Spanish

Course Description

This course explains employee rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and California's Fair Employment and Housing Act. (Spanish Version)

Introduction to Benzene Hazards: A Deep Dive into

Safety – Spanish

Course Description

Benzene is subtle, invisible, and its most devastating effects often show up years later. This course will take a deep dive into benzene: what it is, where it hides, what it does to your body, and how we can protect ourselves. (Spanish Version)

Newsletter – January 2026

- The Science of Adult Learning: What Every Safety Trainer Often Gets Wrong;
- Safety Talks on Dermal Absorption, Back & Muscle Pain, Asbestos Safety and Assured Grounding Safety;
- Fatality Reports;
- Sensitizers Can Produce Serious Skin Problems;
- and more…

Dermal Absorption Safety Meeting Kit

WHAT'S AT STAKE

Your skin is your first line of defense but it's not impenetrable. Many chemicals used on the job can pass right through your skin

without you noticing. Once absorbed, these substances can enter your bloodstream and travel to vital organs, causing short- or long-term health effects. The danger isn't always visible but it's very real.

WHAT'S THE DANGER

Not all chemical hazards come from breathing fumes — some enter silently through your skin. Dermal absorption is the process by which chemicals pass through the skin and enter the bloodstream. This can happen without cuts or visible irritation, especially with substances like solvents, oils, and industrial cleaners. The thinner or more sensitive the skin (like your wrists or face), the faster absorption can occur.

Invisible Entry, Serious Impact

You might not see or feel it happening — but that doesn't mean it's safe. Even a small splash or contact with contaminated gloves or tools can let harmful substances into your system. The risk is even greater when skin is sweaty, damaged, or exposed for long periods.

Common Substances That Absorb Through Skin

- Solvents (like toluene, xylene, acetone)
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Paints, coatings, and industrial dyes
- Fuels, degreasers, and lubricants
- Cleaning agents and corrosives

Health Effects Vary — But They're Often Serious

Once inside your body, these chemicals don't just stay on the skin — they can travel to your liver, kidneys, nervous system, or even cross the blood-brain barrier. Potential health effects include:

- Skin rashes, burns, or allergic reactions
- Liver or kidney damage
- Nervous system disorders
- Hormonal disruption or reproductive harm

- Increased risk of cancer with chronic exposure

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Preventing dermal absorption isn’t just about avoiding spills – it’s about building smart habits that protect your skin from invisible dangers.

Wear the Right PPE – and Wear It Right

Your best line of defense is a proper barrier between your skin and hazardous substances. Not all gloves or clothing are created equal – make sure your gear matches the chemical you’re using.

- Choose chemical-resistant gloves (like nitrile, neoprene, or butyl rubber) – latex doesn’t protect against most solvents.
- Use long sleeves, aprons, or coveralls when working with splash-prone materials.
- Make sure sleeves go over gloves, not tucked inside – this helps prevent drips from running down into your hands.

· Replace gloves if they’re torn, degraded, or contaminated.

Wash Before You Eat, Drink, Smoke – or Touch Your Face – Even trace amounts of hazardous chemicals on your hands can be dangerous. Before you eat lunch, use your phone, or take a smoke break:

- Wash thoroughly with soap and water – not just a quick rinse.
- Use designated wash stations or hand sanitizers designed for chemical removal.
- Never use solvents or fuels to “clean” your hands – they increase absorption.

Keep Contaminated Gear and Tools Separate – If gloves, tools, or clothing get contaminated, don’t bring them into break areas or vehicles. Even dried chemical residue can transfer to your skin or surfaces others will touch.

- Store PPE in clean areas – not in your locker next to your lunch.
- Wash or replace work clothing regularly – don’t bring it home for laundry unless it’s been decontaminated.
- Keep tools clean and inspect handles or grips that may absorb chemicals over time.

Cover Cuts, Rashes, or Damaged Skin – Broken or irritated skin absorbs chemicals more quickly and deeply. Use bandages or protective sleeves, and avoid working with hazardous substances if you have open wounds unless properly protected.

Follow the SDS (Safety Data Sheet) – Always review the chemical’s SDS before use. It tells you what type of PPE is required, what first aid steps to follow if skin exposure occurs, and which areas of the body are most at risk.

Example:

Let’s say you’re cleaning tools with a solvent and wearing basic latex gloves. You think it’s enough protection, but after an hour, your hands start to itch and burn. Turns out, that solvent eats through latex – and now your skin’s absorbed it. Switching to nitrile gloves and checking the SDS beforehand would’ve prevented the exposure.

FINAL WORD

Your skin is one of your body’s biggest organs – and one of the easiest ways for chemicals to get inside you. Just because a liquid doesn’t burn or smell strong doesn’t mean it’s safe.

Formaldehyde Safety: Staying Safe Around a Hidden Hazard – Spanish

Course Description

This course will cover what formaldehyde is, why it’s used, what it does to your body, and—most importantly—how to protect yourself. (Spanish Version)

Newsletter – December 2025

- What is Workplace Violence and Harassment;
- Safety Talks on Holiday Season Safety, Restaurant Ergonomics, Sexual Harassment and Shutdown Safety;
- Fatality Reports;
- Ergonomics and Manual Handling;
- and more…

Newsletter – November 2025

- Power Line Safety;
- Safety Talks on Dieseling Equipment, Gas Cylinders, Pinch Points and Power Lines;
- Fatality Reports;
- Crane Safety;

- and more…

Working with Dangerous Goods – Safe Handling Meeting kit – Spanish

QUÉ ESTÁ EN RIESGO

Trabajar con mercancías peligrosas implica manipular materiales que pueden ser inflamables, tóxicos, corrosivos o reactivos. Estas sustancias requieren un cuidado especial, ya que cualquier error puede provocar lesiones graves, incendios, daños medioambientales o costosas operaciones de limpieza. Tanto si transporta, almacena o utiliza estas mercancías, su seguridad y la de todos los que le rodean depende del cumplimiento de unas estrictas normas de manipulación. Si se hace correctamente, se protege a sí mismo, a sus compañeros de trabajo y a su lugar de trabajo de cualquier daño. Mantenerse informado y ser precavido evita que las mercancías peligrosas se conviertan en situaciones peligrosas.

CUÁL ES EL PELIGRO

Trabajar con mercancías peligrosas es una gran responsabilidad, ya que estos materiales pueden causar daños de forma rápida e inesperada. Tanto si se manipulan productos químicos, líquidos inflamables, gases o sustancias tóxicas, los riesgos están siempre presentes si no se siguen las normas de seguridad. Estos son algunos de los peligros más comunes a los que hay que prestar atención:

- **Incendios y Explosiones:** las mercancías peligrosas, como disolventes, combustibles o gases, pueden inflamarse con una

simple chispa o fuente de calor. El almacenamiento o la manipulación inadecuados aumentan la probabilidad de que se produzca un incendio que pueda propagarse rápidamente, causar lesiones a los trabajadores y provocar daños materiales importantes.

- **Quemaduras Químicas e Intoxicaciones:** muchas sustancias peligrosas pueden causar quemaduras o enfermedades graves al entrar en contacto con la piel o al inhalarlas. Sin el equipo de protección adecuado, los productos químicos pueden dañar rápidamente la piel, los ojos y el sistema respiratorio.
- **Derrames y Fugas:** Incluso un derrame menor puede crear superficies resbaladizas, liberar gases nocivos o contaminar el medio ambiente. Sin una limpieza rápida y adecuada, los derrames ponen a todos en riesgo de sufrir lesiones o exposición.
- **Gases Tóxicos y Riesgos de Inhalación:** Algunos productos químicos liberan vapores que son invisibles pero muy peligrosos. Respirarlos sin protección respiratoria puede causar mareos, daños pulmonares o problemas de salud a largo plazo.
- **Reacciones entre Sustancias Incompatibles:** Ciertos productos químicos pueden reaccionar violentamente si se almacenan o se mezclan accidentalmente. Esto puede provocar explosiones, liberar gases tóxicos o iniciar incendios.
- **Errores de Manipulación y Almacenamiento:** No seguir el etiquetado adecuado, utilizar recipientes incorrectos o apilar materiales de forma insegura aumenta la posibilidad de que se produzcan accidentes. Incluso un pequeño error puede tener graves consecuencias.

COMO PROTEGERSE

Manejar mercancías peligrosas de forma segura significa estar preparado y ser cuidadoso en cada paso. No se trata solo de ponerse guantes, sino de comprender los riesgos y saber cómo evitar accidentes. Llevar el equipo adecuado, seguir los procedimientos correctos y mantenerse alerta puede protegerte de

lesiones graves y mantener a todos a salvo en el lugar de trabajo.

Utilice el Equipo de Protección Personal (EPP) Adecuado

- Utilice siempre guantes resistentes a los productos químicos que manipule.
- Utilice gafas de seguridad o protectores faciales para proteger sus ojos de las salpicaduras.
- Utilice respiradores o máscaras adecuados cuando trabaje con humos o polvo.
- Utilice ropa resistente al fuego si manipula materiales inflamables.

Conozca sus Materiales y Planifique con Anticipación

Antes de empezar a trabajar con cualquier mercancía peligrosa, tómese el tiempo necesario para leer las fichas de datos de seguridad (FDS) de cada producto químico. Saber cómo reacciona una sustancia, qué equipo de protección necesita y cómo responder en caso de emergencia le ayudará a adelantarse a los problemas. Planificar su trabajo, incluyendo cómo almacenar y transportar los materiales de forma segura, evita derrames, fugas y confusiones que podrían causar daños.

Manténgase Limpio y Preparado para las Emergencias

Una buena limpieza y estar preparado para derrames o accidentes puede evitar que pequeños problemas se conviertan en desastres. Mantenga su área de trabajo ordenada, limpie inmediatamente cualquier derrame y asegúrese de saber dónde se encuentran los kits para derrames y los extintores. Estar preparado significa que puede actuar con rapidez y seguridad si algo sale mal, reduciendo el riesgo para usted y para los demás.

Pasos Clave para Protegerse:

- Utilice siempre el equipo de protección personal adecuado
- Almacene los productos químicos de forma adecuada, separe los materiales incompatibles y mantenga los envases bien cerrados.
- Etiquete claramente todos los productos peligrosos y

compruébelos dos veces antes de usarlos.
- Nunca coma, beba ni fume cerca de productos peligrosos.
- Conozca los procedimientos de emergencia y tenga kits para derrames listos y accesibles.
- Lávese bien las manos después de manipular productos químicos y antes de los descansos o las comidas.
- Deseche los materiales contaminados de forma segura según las normas de su lugar de trabajo.

Ejemplo:

Imagina que estás moviendo barriles de líquido inflamable en el almacén. Te das cuenta de que uno de los barriles tiene una pequeña fuga en la parte inferior. En lugar de ahorrar tiempo, te detienes inmediatamente y te pones guantes y gafas resistentes a los productos químicos. A continuación, aseguras la zona, coges un kit para derrames y limpias la fuga de forma segura. Al actuar con rapidez y utilizar tu equipo de protección personal, evitas un posible incendio o lesiones, y mantienes tu seguridad y la de tus compañeros de trabajo.

CONCLUSIÓN

Trabajar de forma segura con mercancías peligrosas es una cuestión de respeto, tanto por los materiales como por su propio bienestar. Dedicar tiempo a planificar, utilizar el equipo de protección adecuado y seguir los procedimientos de seguridad le mantiene a usted y a todos los que le rodean a salvo. Cuando maneja estos materiales con cuidado, evita accidentes y se asegura de que el trabajo se realice correctamente.

Working with Dangerous Goods – Safe Handling Fatality File

Employee Is Injured in Fall from Shipping Container

On January 5, 2012, Employee #1, a restorer/stock associate, was working at a warehouse that served several retail stores and art galleries. His main duty was repairing goods that had been damaged during shipping, but he also assisted other associates loading and unloading goods transported in shipping containers or trucks. The warehouse had no loading dock. Goods would be shipped in their original cardboard boxes or wooden crates.

Employee #1 was assisting a coworker unloading a shipping container that was 20-ft long and approximately 5 ft above the ground. The coworker was pushing a wood crate containing jade sculptures toward the unprotected edge of the container's opening.

Employee #1 was walking backward and pulling the crate. When the crate broke, he lost his balance, stumbled backward, and fell from the container to a concrete floor.

Employee #1 was hospitalized for a fractured skull and brain hemorrhage. The cause of the accident was failure to provide guardrails or an alternate means of protecting employees from falling off the elevated work location (shipping container).

Source: *osha.gov*

Working with Dangerous Goods – Safe Handling Meeting kit

WHAT’S AT STAKE

Working with dangerous goods means handling materials that can be flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive. These substances require extra care because mistakes can cause serious injuries, fires, environmental damage, or costly cleanups. Whether you’re transporting, storing, or using these goods, your safety and the safety of everyone around depends on following strict handling rules. When done right, you protect yourself, your coworkers, and your workplace from harm. Staying informed and cautious keeps dangerous goods from turning into dangerous situations.

WHAT’S THE DANGER

The Working with dangerous goods is a serious responsibility because these materials can cause harm quickly and unexpectedly. Whether you handle chemicals, flammable liquids, gases, or toxic substances, the risks are always present if safety rules aren’t followed. Here are some common dangers to watch for:

- **Fire and Explosions:** Dangerous goods like solvents, fuels, or gases can ignite with just a small spark or heat source. Improper storage or handling increases the likelihood of a fire that can spread rapidly, injure workers, and cause significant property damage.
- **Chemical Burns and Poisoning:** Many hazardous substances can cause burns or serious illnesses on contact with skin or if inhaled. Without proper protective gear, chemicals can quickly damage your skin, eyes, and respiratory system.
- **Spills and Leaks:** Even a minor spill can create slippery surfaces, release harmful fumes, or contaminate the environment. Without quick and proper cleanup, spills put everyone at risk of injury or exposure.

- **Toxic Fumes and Inhalation Hazards:** Some chemicals release vapors that are invisible but very dangerous. Breathing these in without respiratory protection can cause dizziness, lung damage, or long-term health problems.
- **Reactions Between Incompatible Substances:** Certain chemicals can react violently if stored or mixed accidentally. This can cause explosions, release toxic gases, or start fires.
- **Handling and Storage Mistakes:** Not following proper labeling, using incorrect containers, or stacking materials unsafely increases the chance of accidents. Even a small mistake can have serious consequences.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Handling dangerous goods safely means being prepared and careful at every step. It’s not just about putting on gloves—it’s about understanding the risks and knowing how to avoid accidents. Wearing the right gear, following proper procedures, and staying alert can protect you from serious injuries and keep everyone safe on site.

Use Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Always wear gloves resistant to the chemicals you handle.
- Use safety goggles or face shields to protect your eyes from splashes.
- Wear appropriate respirators or masks when working with fumes or dust.
- Use flame-resistant clothing if handling flammable materials.

Know Your Materials and Plan Ahead

Before you start working with any dangerous goods, take the time to read the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for each chemical. Knowing how a substance reacts, what protective gear you need, and how to respond in an emergency helps you stay one step ahead of trouble. Planning your work, including how to store and transport materials safely, prevents spills, leaks, and mix-ups that could cause harm.

Stay Clean and Ready for Emergencies

Good housekeeping and being ready for spills or accidents can prevent small problems from turning into disasters. Keep your work area tidy, clean up any spills immediately, and make sure you know where spill kits and fire extinguishers are located. Being prepared means you can act quickly and safely if something goes wrong, reducing risk to yourself and others.

Key Steps to Protect Yourself:

- Always wear appropriate PPE
- Store chemicals properly separate incompatible materials and keep containers sealed tightly.
- Label all hazardous goods clearly and double-check before use.
- Never eat, drink, or smoke near dangerous goods.
- Know emergency procedures and have spill kits ready and accessible.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after handling chemicals and before breaks or meals.
- Dispose of contaminated materials safely according to your workplace rules.

Example:

Imagine you’re moving barrels of flammable liquid in the warehouse. You notice one barrel is leaking a little at the bottom. Instead of saving time, you immediately stop and put on chemical-resistant gloves and goggles. You then secure the area, grab a spill kit, and clean up the leak safely. By acting quickly and using your PPE, you prevent a possible fire or injury, keeping yourself and your coworkers safe.

FINAL WORD

Working safely with dangerous goods is about respect—for the materials and for your own well-being. Taking the time to plan, use the right protective gear, and follow safety procedures keeps you and everyone around you safe. When you handle these materials

carefully, you avoid accidents and make sure the job gets done right.

Working with Dangerous Goods – Safe Handling Stats and Facts – Spanish

HECHOS

1. **Exposición a Sustancias Tóxicas:** La manipulación inadecuada puede liberar vapores, provocando riesgos por inhalación o lesiones por contacto con la piel.
2. **Derrames Químicos e Incendios:** La caída o rotura de envases puede desencadenar derrames peligrosos; los materiales inflamables o reactivos suponen riesgos de incendio/explosión.
3. **Contaminación Medioambiental:** Los derrames pueden ensuciar el suelo y las vías fluviales, dañando los ecosistemas e incurriendo en costes de limpieza.
4. **Almacenamiento y Segregación Inadecuados:** Almacenar juntos productos químicos incompatibles puede dar lugar a reacciones peligrosas (por ejemplo, oxidantes con inflamables).
5. **Errores de Etiquetado y Documentación:** Las etiquetas inadecuadas o la documentación incorrecta pueden impedir que el personal reconozca correctamente los peligros.
6. **Capacitación Insuficiente:** Los trabajadores que carecen de

formación pueden utilizar procedimientos o EPI incorrectos, aumentando los riesgos de exposición.

7. **EPP Inadecuados:** No utilizar guantes, mascarillas o gafas de protección puede causar quemaduras químicas, lesiones por inhalación o daños visuales.

ESTADÍSTICAS

- En 2024, la OSHA registró 5.190 accidentes mortales en el lugar de trabajo, de los cuales el transporte y el almacenamiento representaron el 14% (726 casos). Los incidentes relacionados con materiales peligrosos contribuyeron al 5% de los accidentes mortales, lo que pone de relieve la necesidad de utilizar EPP resistentes a los productos químicos y respiradores.
- En 2024, las infracciones relacionadas con los EPP (29 CFR 1910.132) ocuparon el 6º lugar en todos los sectores (1.876 citaciones), incluidos los guantes o trajes inadecuados resistentes a productos químicos para mercancías peligrosas. Las infracciones relacionadas con la protección respiratoria (29 CFR 1910.134) ocuparon el 4º lugar (2.800 citaciones), a menudo debido al uso inadecuado de mascarillas de respiración.
- Un estudio del NIOSH de 2022 reveló que el 30% de los trabajadores que manipulan productos químicos peligrosos carecen de EPI adecuados, lo que aumenta el riesgo de quemaduras, dermatitis o problemas respiratorios.
- WorkSafeBC informó de entre 10 y 15 muertes anuales en el sector del transporte y el almacenamiento en Columbia Británica (2020-2023), de las cuales el 10% estaban relacionadas con materiales peligrosos. Un EPP y una formación adecuados podrían mitigar estos riesgos.
- Los datos de CCOHS 2023 mostraron que los lugares de trabajo que aplican EPP resistentes a productos químicos y respiradores redujeron las lesiones por materiales peligrosos en un 22%, especialmente en tareas como el trasvase de corrosivos o líquidos inflamables.
- En 2024, Ontario introdujo multas de hasta 500.000 dólares

por infracciones reiteradas en materia de salud y seguridad en el trabajo, incluido el incumplimiento de las normas sobre EPP, que afectan a las empresas que manipulan mercancías peligrosas sin el equipo de seguridad adecuado.

Working with Dangerous Goods – Safe Handling Stats and Facts

FACTS

1. **Exposure to Toxic Substances:** Improper handling may release vapors, leading to inhalation hazards or skin contact injuries.
2. **Chemical Spills & Fires:** Dropped or ruptured containers can trigger dangerous spills—flammable or reactive materials pose fire/explosion risks.
3. **Environmental Contamination:** Spills can soil soil and waterways, harming ecosystems and incurring cleanup costs.
4. **Improper Storage & Segregation:** Storing incompatible chemicals together can result in dangerous reactions (e.g., oxidizers with flammables).
5. **Labeling & Documentation Errors:** Inadequate labels or wrong documentation may prevent personnel from properly recognizing hazards.
6. **Insufficient Training:** Workers lacking training may use incorrect procedures or PPE, increasing exposure risks.
7. **Inadequate PPE:** Not using protective gloves, respirators, or goggles can cause chemical burns, inhalation injuries, or visual damage.

STATS

- In 2024, OSHA recorded 5,190 workplace fatalities, with transportation and warehousing accounting for 14% (726 cases). Hazardous materials incidents contributed to 5% of fatalities, emphasizing the need for chemical-resistant PPE and respirators.
- In 2024, PPE violations (29 CFR 1910.132) ranked 6th across industries (1,876 citations), including inadequate chemical-resistant gloves or suits for dangerous goods. Respiratory Protection (29 CFR 1910.134) violations ranked 4th (2,800 citations), often due to improper respirator use.
- A 2022 NIOSH study found that 30% of workers handling hazardous chemicals lacked proper PPE, increasing risks of burns, dermatitis, or respiratory issues.
- WorkSafeBC reported 10–15 annual fatalities in transportation and warehousing in British Columbia (2020–2023), with 10% involving hazardous materials. Proper PPE and training could mitigate these risks.
- CCOHS 2023 data showed that workplaces enforcing chemical-resistant PPE and respirators reduced hazardous materials injuries by 22%, particularly for tasks like transferring corrosives or flammable liquids.
- In 2024, Ontario introduced fines up to $500,000 for repeat OHS violations, including PPE non-compliance, impacting firms handling dangerous goods without proper safety gear.

Working with Dangerous Goods – Safe Handling Fatality File – Spanish

Un Empleado Resulta Herido al Caer de un Contenedor de Transporte

El 5 de enero de 2012, el Empleado nº 1, un restaurador/socio de almacén, trabajaba en un almacén que daba servicio a varias tiendas minoristas y galerías de arte. Su tarea principal era reparar mercancías que se habían dañado durante el envío, pero también ayudaba a otros asociados a cargar y descargar mercancías transportadas en contenedores de envío o camiones. El almacén no tenía muelle de carga. Las mercancías se enviaban en sus cajas de cartón o cajones de madera originales.

El empleado nº 1 estaba ayudando a un compañero a descargar un contenedor de 20 pies de largo y aproximadamente 5 pies por encima del suelo. El compañero empujaba una caja de madera que contenía esculturas de jade hacia el borde desprotegido de la abertura del contenedor.

El empleado nº 1 caminaba hacia atrás y tiraba de la caja. Cuando la caja se rompió, perdió el equilibrio, tropezó hacia atrás y cayó del contenedor al suelo de cemento.

El empleado nº 1 fue hospitalizado por fractura de cráneo y hemorragia cerebral. La causa del accidente fue la falta de barandillas o de medios alternativos para proteger a los empleados de las caídas desde el lugar de trabajo elevado (contenedor de transporte).

Fuente: *osha.gov*