Date: 08/05/09  Toolbox Talk #20

SAFETY SIGNAGE

National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) & Hazardous Material Identification System (HMIS) Differences:
- The NFPA Diamond is designed to aid firefighters and emergency responders by identifying hazardous materials.
- The HMIS is designed to convey health warning information to employees.
- The white section of the NFPA diamond is reserved for “Specific Hazards”
- The white section of the HMIS is reserved for PPE precautions.

The Color of the sign:
- Most signs are color coordinated, with each color representing a specific type of warning.
- When selecting a safety sign, be sure that the color of the sign follows these rules:
  - Red indicates an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.
  - Orange indicates a potentially hazardous situation that could result in death or serious injury.
  - Yellow indicates a potentially hazardous situation which may result in minor or moderate injury.
  - Green is used for the identification of safety equipment, first aid, or emergency egress locations.
  - Blue is the color used to communicate safety information.

Common Occupational Safety Signage found throughout the University:
- Take time to assess the signage found in your facility. Are hazards and safety equipment properly represented by a sign?
- Look at all tasks, machinery, and projects at your facility to determine if you have effective hazard signage.