



## Classifications of Hazardous Materials

There are four classifications of hazardous chemicals that employees will likely come into contact with. These are:

### **IGNITABLES---TOXICS---CAUSTICS---REACTIVES**

**IGNITABLES-** Ignitable products are either flammable or combustible. A spill of this nature creates two problems: one involving the potential for explosion and/or fire, and the other is the pollution of the environment. Examples are gasoline, paint thinners, petroleum solvents, alcohol, and adhesives.

**TOXICS-** These products are poisonous to the body and can cause illness or death. Examples are anti-freeze, paint, insecticides, fertilizer, and cleaning fluids.

**CAUSTICS-** A caustic is anything that burns, strongly irritates, corrodes or simply destroys the skin. Examples are acids and drain cleaners.

**REACTIVES-** These products react violently when mixed with other products. The most common example is dry or liquid chlorine.

### In the Event of Discovering a Spill

Regardless of the nature of the spill, and before starting any cleanup activities, the employee(s) shall always secure the area around the spill. This is to include asking all other unnecessary employees and customers to move a safe distance away from the spill site. The employee(s) shall also barricade or cordon off access to the site with tape or other visual barriers as needed to keep people from wandering into the spill site. Once the area is secure, Management shall be notified of the spill, it's location, and when the area is clean. Management shall also notify public officials as necessary.



