

Laboratory Door Signs

Laboratories containing hazardous chemicals or biohazards have signs posted at each entry to notify emergency responders of hazards within. Laboratory personnel are responsible for ensuring that information on door signs is up to date.

Choosing a Sign Template

Two sign templates are available: [NFPA](#) and [NFPA + BSL2](#). Most Seattle University laboratories use the [NFPA](#) template. Those laboratories working with biohazardous materials at BSL2 use the [NFPA + BSL2](#) template.

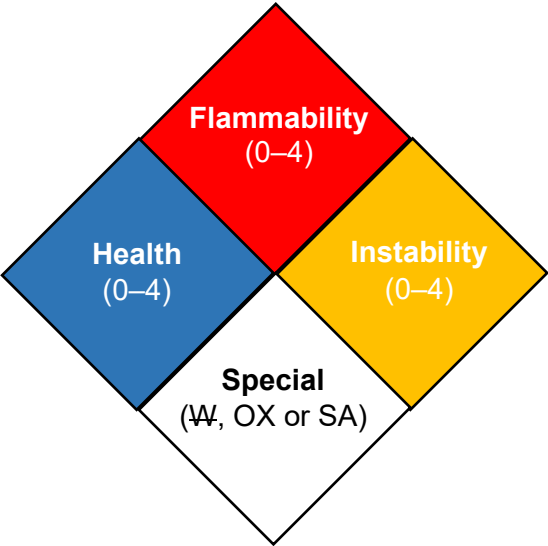
Creating the Door Sign

1. Enter the date the sign was created at the top right
2. Enter the building name or four-letter abbreviation and the room number in the top center
3. Complete the NFPA diamond based on the chemical inventory of the room (see instructions below)
4. List specific hazards in the location:
 - a. List "Compressed gas" if the lab contains gas cylinder(s)
 - b. List all biohazards present in a BSL2 space
 - c. List "High Magnetic Field," "Class 3A Laser" or other hazard(s) present that are not otherwise indicated on the door sign
 - d. List any other chemical hazard classes or specific materials that present increased risk to emergency responders as space allows
5. Enter names and phone numbers for the emergency contact(s) at the bottom of the sign
6. Print full size in color
7. Post at each entry to the laboratory

Contact the Academic Safety Officer for assistance completing the form or printing the completed form.

Determining Ratings for NFPA Diamond

The NFPA diamond accounts only for chemical hazards in a location and reflects the full chemical inventory within. Numerical ratings increase from 0 (minimal) to 4 (severe). To determine the NFPA rating for a chemical, refer to its safety data sheet (SDS) or chemical label. The table below can be used to evaluate the hazard rating for a given area.

	Health (blue)	Post the highest NFPA classification rating present in the area regardless of amount
	Flammability (red)	4: More than 5 gallons Class IA (NFPA) and/or any flammable gases 3: 5 gallons or less Class IA (NFPA) and/or 10 gallons or less Class 1B and 1C 2: 2 gallons or less Class IA (NFPA) and/or 4 gallons or less Class 1B and 1C 1: Less than 1 gallon Class IA (NFPA) and/or 2 gallons or less Class 1B and 1C
	Instability/ Reactivity (yellow)	Post the highest NFPA classification rating present in the area regardless of amount
	Special Hazards (white)	Choose only one, in order of priority: W: Water-reactive materials OX: Oxidizers SA: Simple asphyxiants