**NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) Diamond**

The NFPA 704 system provides a readily recognized, easily understood system for identifying specific hazards. This system uses spatial, visual, and numerical methods to describe relative hazards of a material. It addresses the health, flammability, instability, and related hazards that may be presented as a result of fire, spill, or similar emergency.

The NFPA 704 Diamond identifies the following hazards of chemicals.

- **Health**
- **Flammability**
- **Reactivity**
- **Special**

Each hazard class is ranked to indicate the degree of hazard.

- Minimal Hazard=0
- Slight Hazard=1
- Moderate Hazard=2
- Serious Hazard=3
- Severe Hazard=4

The special hazards section does not use numbers, but symbols to communicate hazards. The only symbols authorized by the NFPA are \( W \), which indicates a reaction when in contact with water, and \( OX \), which indicates that the material is an oxidizer.

People may put other symbols in this area such as ACID, ALK, CORR, or even the radiation symbol. These symbols are not necessary because the hazards are already accounted for in the health rating.

The Oshkosh Fire Department requires an NFPA Diamond on the door of a shop or studio if that area contains chemicals. When creating an NFPA Diamond, you must consider all hazardous materials in the area, noting the most severe hazard rating from each one.

**Example:**

NFPA Diamond for Sulfuric Acid  
NFPA Diamond for Acetone

NFPA Diamond for door of room containing Sulfuric Acid and Acetone
If a chemical or hazardous material does not have an NFPA Diamond on the label, you may be asked to apply one to the container (if no other hazard information is available) and/or the cabinet that it is being kept. At times, the packaging may have the hazard ratings already in place, just not in diamond form. In other cases, you may need to consult the manufacturer’s SDS to obtain NFPA ratings or other information to help formulate the ratings.