# Student worksheet - Occupational Health and Safety signs (OHS)

## Key messages

It is very important that you pay attention to all the safety signs in the workplace, you understand what they mean and do what they say.

There are a range of safety signs in the workplace that mean different things:

* Some signs means ‘stop’ and ‘do not’
* Some signs mean you need to be careful
* Some signs mean that you need to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
* Some signs mean that there are dangerous goods
* Some signs just have pictures, some have symbols or words and some have both

## Types of Safety signs

The signs and symbols you see in the workplace are to remind you or tell you about something. Safety signs should be placed where everyone can see them.

Their directions are mandatory, which means people in the workplace MUST do what they say.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Pictures only | exit |
| Words only | noexit |
| Pictures and words | firstaid |

## Activity 1: OHS sign identification Activity symbol

In pairs, talk about OHS signs you have seen around school, workplaces, and in the community, and fill in the activity sheet below.

### Stop and do not. ‘You must not …’ signs

These signs have a WHITE back ground and a red circle with a cross through it.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sign | What does this sign mean? | Why is it used? |
| noentry |  |  |
| nosmoking |  |  |
| water |  |  |

### Caution – Be careful signs

These signs have a YELLOW background, and a triangle with black border containing symbol

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sign | What does this sign mean? | Why is it used? |
| vehicles |  |  |
| cleaning |  |  |
| slippery |  |  |

### Mandatory –‘You must wear this’ signs

These signs have a BLUE background, and blue circle with a white symbol or picture inside.

These are some of the types of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sign | What does this sign mean? | Why is it used? |
| gloves |  |  |
| boots |  |  |
| earmuffs |  |  |

### Emergency information signs

These signs are square or rectangle shaped: GREEN or RED background, white symbol

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sign | What does this sign mean? | Why is it used? |
| emergencystop |  |  |
| firstaid |  |  |
| emergencyexit |  |  |
| noexit |  |  |

### Dangerous Goods signs

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sign | What does this sign mean? | Why is it used? |
| highvoltage |  |  |
| flammablegas |  |  |
|  |  |  |

### Fire safety signs

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sign | What does this sign mean? | Why is it used? |
| fireextinguisher |  |  |
| firehouse |  |  |

## Activity 2: WHS signage ‘Memory’ game

Pair up with a classmate and use the following pages of workplace health and safety signs to play a game of ‘Memory’. Make sure you have two copies of each sign, and cut them from the page.

1. Mix up the cards
2. Lay them in rows, face down
3. Turn over any two cards
4. If the two cards match, keep them
5. If they don't match, turn them back over
6. Remember what was on each card and where it was
7. Watch and remember during the other player's turn
8. The game is over when all the cards have been matched

Each time you make a pair, you must be able explain to your partner what the sign means, and why it is used. If you cannot explain the meaning and use of the sign, you must replace it and try again!

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