



The consequences of improperly managing highly hazardous chemicals are too well known—the loss of life, major property damage and disruption of business. The major objective of process safety management (PSM) of highly hazardous chemicals is to prevent unwanted releases of hazardous chemicals that could expose employees and others to serious hazards.

An effective process safety management program requires a systematic approach to evaluating the whole chemical process. The evaluation should consider: process design; process technology; process changes; operational and maintenance activities and procedures; nonroutine activities and procedures; emergency preparedness plans and procedures; training programs; and other elements that affect the process.

Because process safety is a team effort, you should know your role and work with your fellow employees to protect yourself and others. In particular:

**Know the hazards associated with mixing, separating or storing process materials, including:**

- ☒ Which chemicals are reactive or able to cause a runaway reaction.

- ☒ Toxic, fire or explosive hazards associated with your process chemicals.
- ☒ What to do during an incident or unusual process condition.

**Be aware of equipment operation and maintenance requirements, including:**

- ☒ Signs of corrosion, leakage or other signs of equipment problems.
- ☒ Who to alert when you see a problem.

**Know your process:**

- ☒ Follow operating, safety and emergency procedures.
- ☒ Keep up-to-date with changes to procedures, equipment and chemicals.
- ☒ Provide feedback—report all incidents and near misses.

For more information on the Process Safety Management Standard, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).



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Printed 11/09

500 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$40, or \$.08 per copy.