

Barricades & Signs

Signs and Barricades are an important part of work area safety that protect workers, visitors and the general public. If there is a potential hazard, signs must be visible at all times and when necessary, appropriate barricades must be in place.

OSHA has specific regulations pertaining to signs and barricades so use this safety topic to review and become familiar with the signs and barricades that are needed in specific work



OSHA Standard 1926.200(a) *Signs (...) required (...) shall be visible at all times when work is being performed, and shall be removed or covered promptly when the hazards no longer exist.*

Signs are the warnings of hazard, temporarily or permanently affixed or placed, at locations where hazards exist.

Barricade means an obstruction to deter the passage of persons or vehicles.

RED >> DANGER >> where immediate hazard exists
YELLOW >> CAUTION >> to warn of potential hazards
ORANGE >> WARNING >> barricades or notices

All safety signs should be visible and legible. If an active sign is vandalized, becomes rusted, or is coming off the affixed location, it must be replaced immediately. Any sign that is no longer relevant should be covered or removed immediately.

Barricades should be inspected daily (or more often) to ensure they are still in place and working as intended.

- Danger signs indicate that there is an immediate threat and special precautions are necessary.
- Red should be the main color on the top of a black and white Danger sign.
- Don't assume everyone is aware of clear and present danger, signs are important!
- Use Danger signs to mark hazardous areas to prevent potential serious injuries to employees and others that could be in the area at any time.



Caution signs warn against potential hazards or caution against unsafe practices, that if not avoided, could result in minor or moderate injury.

Caution signs are yellow and black to ensure they are easily visible.

OSHA Standard 1926.200(b)(1)/(2) *Danger signs shall be used only where an immediate hazard exists... Danger signs shall have red as the predominating color for the upper panel; black outline on the borders; and a white lower panel for additional sign wording.*

OSHA Standard 1926.200(c)(1)/(2) *Caution signs shall be used only to warn against potential hazards or to caution against unsafe practices... Caution signs shall have yellow as the predominating color; black upper panel and borders; yellow lettering of "caution" on the black panel; and the lower yellow panel for additional sign wording. Black lettering shall be used for additional wording.*

Other required signs include:

- Warning Signs
- Safety Instruction Signs
- Exit Signs
- Directional Signs
- Traffic Signs
- Notice Signs

