

# HAZARD ALERT

## CHEMICAL MIX-UPS SENDS TWO WORKERS TO HOSPITAL

August 30, 2009

In July of 2009 two employees at the Clarion Hotel in Winnipeg, were sent to hospital after hydrochloric acid was mixed with chlorine, creating a toxic reaction. The incident was reported in the news media and investigated by the Workplace Safety and Health Division.

Chemical reactivity hazards present serious and sometimes catastrophic danger to workers when hazards are not thoroughly understood and controlled. Chemical mix-ups have resulted in fires, explosions, serious injuries and even fatalities.

WHMIS stands for 'The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System'. WHMIS legislation ensures that all workers "Right to Know" is exercised with respect to controlled products.

If you have WHMIS controlled products in your workplace all workers who with or in the vicinity of them must be training.

### Four Key Questions that all workers should be able to answer are?

1. *What are the hazards of the product I'm working with?*
2. *How do I protect myself from the hazards?*
3. *What do I do in the case of an emergency?*
4. *Where can I get more information about this product?*



Compressed Gas



Flammable



Oxidizer



Poisonous



Toxic



Biohazard



Corrosive



Reactive

NOTE: Any reference to the Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Regulation is for convenience sake only. The original text must be consulted for all intents and purposes of applying the law.

### MR 217/06 Part 35 – The WHMIS Regulation Says.....Training

35.3(1) An employer must ensure that a worker who works with or near a controlled product or performs work involving the manufacture of a controlled product receives training in the following:

- (a) the content required to be on a supplier label and a workplace label and the purpose and significance of the information on the label;
- (b) the content required to be on a material safety data sheet and the purpose and significance of the information on the material safety data sheet;
- (c) procedures for safely storing, using and handling the controlled product;
- (d) if applicable, the methods of identification referred to in section 35.7;
- (e) the procedures to be followed if there are fugitive emissions;
- (f) the procedures to be followed in case of an emergency involving the controlled product.

