

Signs 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.

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. 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.

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

- 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.
- Warning signs indicate a potentially hazardous situation.
- Safety Instruction signs are used to provide information, procedures or instructions.
- Notice signs are often blue and provide information that is considered important but not directly hazardous (example: security or hygiene).