

Pyrophoric Materials

Pyrophoric materials are substances that can spontaneously ignite upon exposure to air or moisture. Working with pyrophoric materials requires careful planning, appropriate PPE, and strict safety protocols to prevent accidents and ensure the safety of personnel.



Fun FAQ!

This pictogram and hazard statement combined often signify that the material in question is pyrophoric in nature

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Wear a flame-resistant lab coat, and safety glasses or goggles with side shields. If working with large quantities or under conditions where splashes are likely, consider wearing a face shield. Be sure to use gloves made of materials resistant to the specific substance you're handling.



Recommended PPE

Your safety is paramount! Always follow established protocols, and be aware of the specific hazards associated with the materials you are handling.



TRAINING

All personnel working with, or supervising work with pyrophoric materials Must take RASCAL course TC1850, prior to any work with pyrophoric materials.

SET UP

You must conduct all work in a designated, controlled environment, such as a glove box. You should maintain an inert atmosphere in the work area to prevent the material from making contact with air or

SPILL RESPONSE

1. In the event of an unmanageable spill or fire, evacuate the area immediately.

Remember R.A.C.E.

2. Know the location and proper use of fire extinguishers rated for Class D fires.

*Never use water or typical extinguishing agents on pyrophoric fires.

3. Keep pyrophoric spill control kits, i.e., dry sand, readily available in the case of a manageable spill or fire.



ABC Extinguisher

moisture. Regularly inspect all equipment, including containers, to ensure they are free of defects and properly sealed.



DISPOSAL

Email Labsafety@columbia.edu for guidance on proper disposal methods for specific pyrophoric materials.

Have more questions? Reach out to EH&S at Labsafety@columbia.edu or give us a call

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