

## Safety signs

<b>Reason</b>	Safety signs are important for making workers, visitors and others aware of hazards, information and emergency procedures on site. Safety signs are colour coded and should be displayed as a reminder of important information.
<b>Outline</b>	This talk will cover safety signs you may come across while undertaking your job.

Example of prohibition sign



*No smoking*

Example of warning sign



*Overhead load*

Example of mandatory sign



*Protective eye wear must be worn*

Example of first-aid sign



*Emergency eyewash*

Example of fire-fighting sign



*Fire emergency telephone*

### Types of safety sign

There are five types of safety sign:

1. prohibition signs
2. warning signs
3. mandatory signs
4. emergency escape or first-aid signs
5. fire-fighting signs.

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### Categories and what they mean

1. **Prohibition signs** are round, with a black pictogram on a white background, with red edging and a diagonal red line. These inform you of things you **must not do**. They stop behaviour that is likely to increase or cause danger, for example 'no smoking' or 'no access for pedestrians'.
2. **Warning signs** are triangular, with a black pictogram on a yellow background, and with black edging. These warn you of a **hazard or danger**, for example 'toxic material' or 'overhead load'.
3. **Mandatory signs** are round, with a white pictogram on a blue background. These inform you of things you **must do**, therefore prescribing a specific behaviour, for example 'safety gloves must be worn' or 'ear protection must be worn'.
4. **Emergency escape and first-aid signs** are rectangular or square, with a white pictogram on a green background. These give you **information** on first aid, emergency exits or first-aid facilities, for example the location of the eye-wash station or safety shower.
5. **Fire-fighting signs** are rectangular or square, with a white pictogram on a red background. They indicate the location of the facilities associated with fire safety, for example the location of the fire extinguisher or emergency fire telephone.

### Remember

1. Safety signs are only effective if you understand what they mean; if you do not understand a sign you should speak to your supervisor.
2. Safety signs must be visible. Do not place materials in the way or obstruct visibility. If you need to cover a sign, even temporarily, you should speak with your supervisor first.
3. Check for safety signs when entering the site and at the start of every shift. New hazards may have been introduced to the area, or the location of emergency equipment or the fire assembly point may have changed.
4. Ensure you wear all personal protective equipment (PPE) identified on the mandatory signs on site.
5. You should comply with safety signs as failure to do so could put you or others at risk and you might also face disciplinary action.
6. If you introduce a new hazard to the area, ensure you display the appropriate signage to warn others of the hazard.



**What colour are mandatory signs and what do they mean?**

**What should you do if a sign has accidentally fallen over?**

**Some signs are confusing. Whom should you ask about their meaning?**

**What example can you give of a prohibition sign?**



**Ask for examples of other signs that people have seen on your site.**