

# SELECT THE RIGHT SIGN ELEMENTS

Thanks to OSHA and ANSI, safety signs today have standard elements. That means if you understand sign elements, you should be able to develop an effective sign for your own workplace.

Safety signs are made up of one or more panels, including the message, signal word, safety symbol, and/or directional arrow panels. A panel is a distinct area of a sign. ANSI Z535.2 suggests separating one panel from another by using a line, border, or white space. Note that the directional arrow panel is reserved for directional signs.



## MESSAGE PANEL

The message panel offers the basic words used to convey what you want to say to workers. These messages take many forms:

- **HAZARD ALERTS** – Identify the hazard(s).
- **CONSEQUENCES** – Explain what happens if the hazard(s) is ignored.
- **PROHIBITIONS** – Tell the worker what not to do.
- **ACTIONS** – Instruct the worker what safe behavior to use or how to protect himself or herself from the hazard.
- **INFORMATIONAL** – Offer other messages, such as contact or location information.