

A photograph of three firefighters in full protective gear, including helmets and jackets, standing on a rooftop. They are positioned around a tall, silver flagpole that has an American flag attached. The background shows a complex network of steel beams and structural elements of a building under construction or renovation. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting daytime.

# The Danger Book

A Parent/Teacher Educational Aid  
for Terrorism Awareness

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# Dedicated to the Victims of the 2013 Boston Terror Attack

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Special thanks to my wife Sarah, my nephew Nicholas Gowen, my brother Rich Gowen, Colin King; and all the photographers who provided their images. Without your help this book would not have been possible.

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## About *The Danger Book*

The following is a basic guide to help children understand terrorism (or “special dangers”), identify potential hazardous situations/items, and how to respond to them properly. I have kept the information simple as I believe in teaching awareness but want to avoid scaring children unnecessarily. An abandoned backpack may contain a bomb, but is more than likely just a normal backpack someone left behind. We must educate children how to be safe, but also to refrain from creating paranoia.

I wrote this teaching aid in response to the 2013 Boston bombings upon realizing that we are still unprepared for domestic acts of terrorism. As civilians, awareness is our first line of defense. Just as we teach our children to look both ways before crossing a street, so must we caution them about “special dangers.” The more our children know, the safer they will be.

The *Danger Book* is meant to be used in conjunction with existing family, school, state, and federal emergency response information. Though the advice provided in this teaching aid is sound and proper, it must be bolstered by that of parents, teachers, law enforcement, fire, and other safety officials. If possible, invite a representative of your local police and/or fire department to participate in teaching the contents of this book to your class.

It is strongly advised that you acquire a detailed terrorism guidebook so that you are better informed. In an emergency situation children will be looking to you for guidance, so learn as much as you can about terrorism in order to keep your classroom and/or family safe. Remember: every second counts so know what to do *before* trouble starts.

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# What are *Special Dangers*?

We will be discussing “Special Dangers” in this book. These dangers are a little scary, but it is important to understand them so that you can stay safe.

*Special Dangers* are very rare, but when you encounter one you must know what to do. This book will help you understand what *Special Dangers* are, how to identify them, and what to do to stay safe.

What are *Special Dangers*:

- Any danger involving explosions.
- Any danger involving guns.
- Any danger involving strong chemicals or radiation.
- Any danger involving many hurt or sick people.

Some examples of *Special Dangers* are:



# **What is a *Special Danger Zone*?**

***Special Dangers* can affect a wide area. Bombs, guns, smoke, chemicals, radiation, and special diseases can hurt you even if you are far away.**

**Each *Special Danger* has a specific zone:**

- **A bomb can hurt people in areas as big as a building.**
- **A gun can hurt people in areas as big as a park or athletic field.**
- **Smoke, chemicals, radiation, and special diseases can hurt you from very far away.**

**In any *Special Danger* situation, run to the nearest trusted adult and follow their directions. They will know where you need to go and what to do. What *you* must do is stay calm and stay safe.**

# **What to do if you encounter a *Special Danger***

**Know your dangers. Study them so you know how to identify them quickly.**

**If you see a *Special Danger*, RUN AWAY! Tell the nearest trusted adult. You can also call the “Emergency Number”: 911**

**When you feel you are far enough away from the *Special Danger Zone*, call your parents or seek help at a “safe place.”**



# What is the *Emergency Number*?

The *Emergency Number* is a special number you can call to speak to a trusted adult any time of the day.

If you are in danger and cannot find a trusted adult or trusted stranger, call the *Emergency Number*.

The *Emergency Number* is:

**911**

Be prepared to answer the following questions:

- Your name.
- Your location.
- Your emergency.

People at the *Emergency Number* will send a trusted adult to help you immediately.

# **What Do You Say to a Trusted Adult if you find a *Special Danger*?**

**Remember, the most important thing for you to do during a special emergency is to stay calm and stay safe.**

**Once you are in a safe area, tell a trusted adult what you saw. Try to remember:**

- **What you saw.**
- **Where you saw it.**
- **When you saw it.**

# **Know Who You Can Trust**

**What is a *Stranger*? A stranger is someone you don't know. It is important to be careful around anyone who you don't know.**

**What is a *Trusted Stranger*? A trusted stranger is someone like a police officer, firefighter, doctor or other medical person, soldier, or mail carrier.**

**What is a *Safe Place*? A safe place is somewhere you can go when you are in trouble where the people can be trusted. Good examples of safe places are police stations, fire stations, post offices, hospitals, a trusted neighbor, or your place of worship.**

**Other safe people are your family, your teachers, mothers with children/families, or employees of local businesses.**

**In an emergency, it is important to know whom you can trust and where you can go for help. A good activity is to spend time with your family and write down a list of trusted people and places.**

**It is also important to discuss *Special Dangers* and have a family plan which includes a meeting point should you get separated.**

# Safe Strangers

Below are some strangers who you can trust:



# Safe Places

Below are some safe places where you can get help:



**Sometimes hospitals may be hard to identify. Look for buildings with a red cross.**

**If you see an unattended fire or smoke inside a building, tell an adult. If you can't find an adult, call the *Emergency Number: 911.***



**If it is not yours, do not touch it. If you want to touch it, ask an adult you trust.**



*The above image applies to all unknown objects*

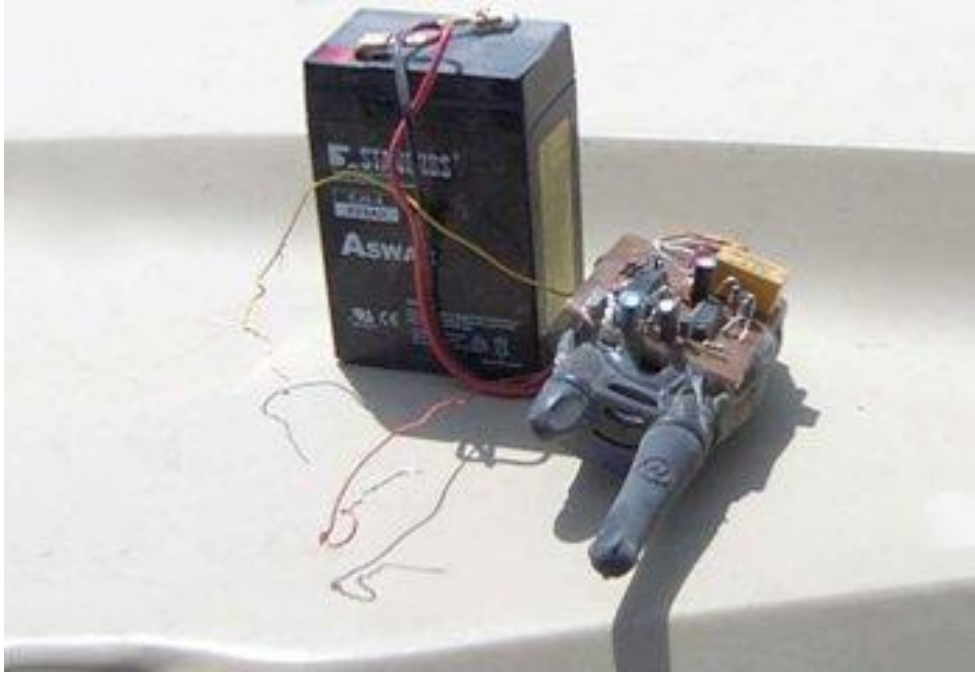
**Stay away from backpacks, briefcases, suitcases and other bags that are left alone.**



**If you see a backpack, briefcase, suitcase, or other kind of bag that is left alone, tell your parents, your teacher, or the nearest trusted adult such as a police officer, firefighter, or medical person.**



**Do not touch any strange object which is connected to a wire. If you don't know what it is, do not go near it.**



**If you see smoke coming from a dumpster, garbage can, sewer drain, or airplane flying low over a city, run away and tell the nearest trusted adult, police officer, firefighter, or medical person.**

*Parents/Teachers: Explain the difference between steam and smoke (steam is okay whereas smoke may indicate a serious problem). With aircraft, smoke is a concern only if flying low and deliberate over a city.*



**If you see thick smoke or smell a strong chemical that makes it difficult to breathe, cover your mouth with cloth (t-shirt, sleeve, napkin, etc) and run away. Tell a trusted adult or any police officer, firefighter, or medical person.**



**If you are in danger, run to the nearest trusted adult, business, police officer, fire station, post office, or hospital.**



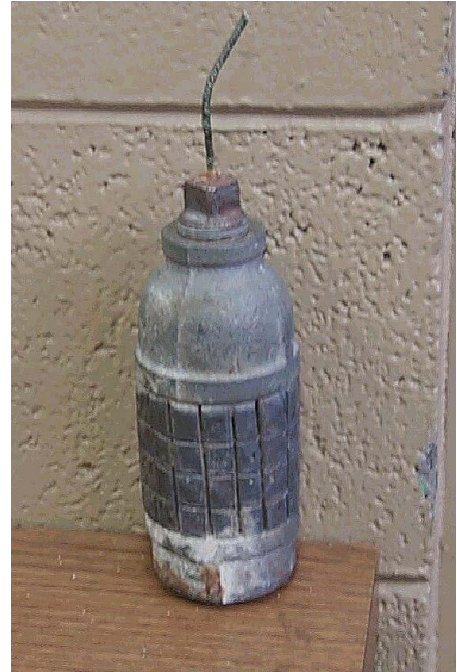
**Be sure you know your address and phone number. If not, carry a piece of paper with your parent's contact information (phone only - no address).**

**If you cannot find your parents, give the paper to the nearest police officer, firefighter, medical person, or other trusted adult. Do not give it to anyone else!**

*Parents/Teachers: test children on their knowledge.*



**If you see something like this...RUN AWAY!!! Tell a police officer, firefighter, or other trusted adult what you saw and where.**



**Do not take anything from a stranger.**

*Parents/Teachers: provide examples.*



**If someone strange is following you or tries to get you into his or her car, run to the nearest trusted neighbor or adult, mother with child/families, police officer, fire department, post office, or hospital. You can also go to a store and look for an employee (they usually wear name tags). Tell them you need help and why.**





**Stay away from strange-looking candy and toys on the ground. Tell a trusted adult.**

*Parents/Teachers: talk about trusted adults again.*



*Parents/Teachers: the above are cluster bomblets, butterfly mines, and a stuffed animal filled with explosives. None have been found in North America, but the possibility of use by terrorists exists.*

# If Someone Starts Shooting a Gun at Your School

- **Stay calm and follow your teacher or other school worker. He/she will know what to do.**



***Parents/Teachers: explain to children what gunfire sounds like.***

# If Someone Starts Shooting a Gun when You are Inside a Building

- Stay calm and follow your parents or a trusted adult – they will know what to do.
- If you are alone, run *away* from the shooting.
- Stay low, run fast, and find the nearest exit (look for an EXIT sign).
- Once you are outside, keep running and find a trusted adult – he/she will know what to do.



*Parents/Teachers: explain to children what gunfire sounds like.*

## **If You are Outside and Someone Starts Shooting a Gun**

- **Drop to the ground.**
- **When the shooting stops, move quickly to the closest large object such as a tree, dumpster, car, or building and hide behind it.**
- **If you feel it is safe to keep moving, run to the nearest trusted adult (friends, family, teacher), police department, fire station, or hospital.**



***Parents/Teachers: explain to children what gunfire sounds like.***

## If Something Explodes at Your School

- **Drop to the floor and cover your head.**
- **Stay calm and follow your teacher or other school worker – he/she will know what to do.**



*Parents/Teachers: explain what a bomb would sound like.*

# If Something Explodes when You are Inside a Building

- Drop to the floor and cover your head.
- If there is a trusted adult nearby, follow his/her instructions – he/she will know what to do.
- If you are alone, wait a few seconds to make sure nothing else explodes (count to 10).
- Get up, stay low, and run *away* from the smoke to the nearest EXIT.
- Once outside, run to the nearest trusted adult – he/she will know what to do.



*Parents/Teachers: explain what a bomb would sound like.*

## If Something Explodes when You are Outside

- Drop to the ground and cover your head.
- If there is a trusted adult nearby, follow his/her instructions – he/she will know what to do.
- If you are alone, wait a few seconds to make sure nothing else explodes (count to 10).
- Get up, stay low, and run *away* from the smoke.
- Stay low and run to the nearest trusted adult – he/she will know what to do.



*Parents/Teachers: explain what a bomb would sound like.*

## **If you are inside a building and see many people suddenly get very sick**

- **Cover your mouth with a cloth (t-shirt, sleeve, napkin, etc).**
- **Find the nearest EXIT sign and leave the building *immediately*.**
- **Once you are outside, find a trusted adult – he/she will know what to do.**



*\*Parents/Teachers: this applies to a chemical attack or accidental spill (a biological attack may take up to one week before signs/symptoms appear so it will not be addressed in this book). Explain to children that it is extremely important to stay calm and leave the area as quickly as possible – every second counts. Remember that the subject of chemical attack is very terrifying – be careful how you explain it to children. If you think they cannot handle the topic just keep it simple and reveal only what is absolutely necessary.*



## **If you are outside and see many people suddenly get very sick**

- **Cover your mouth with a cloth (t-shirt, sleeve, napkin, etc).**
- **Leave the area *immediately*. Run *into* the wind.**
- **Once you are far from the *special danger zone*, find a trusted adult – he/she will know what to do.**



***\*Parents/Teachers: again, this is in reference to a chemical attack/spill . Explain to children what it means to run into the wind - running with the wind will only prolong exposure. It is extremely important for them to stay calm and leave the area as quickly as possible – every second counts. Remember that the subject of chemical attack is a very terrifying – be careful how you explain it to children. If you think they cannot handle the topic just keep it simple and reveal only what is absolutely necessary.***

Remember: guns, explosions, and fireworks sound very much alike. Respond only when you hear fireworks or see an explosion in unexpected places. If you are unsure what to do, think about this: when people see fireworks they applaud and make happy noises. If there is shooting or an explosion, people will make scared, unhappy noises. Listen to the people – their sounds will let you know if you should run.

# Activities and Images



# Signs of Danger: Match the Danger to the Sign

**Explosive**



**Corrosive**



**Chemical**



**Biohazard**



**Electrical Hazard**



**Radioactive Hazard**



**Flammable**



**Poison**



# What is an Explosive?

An explosive is any device or material that can explode. A firecracker is an explosive. So are the below items:



Blasting Cap



## What is a Corrosive?

A corrosive is usually a liquid or powder which can burn your skin or melt material such as plastic or metal. Battery acid is an example of a corrosive. You must never touch anything with the below sign:



# What is a Chemical Hazard?

A chemical hazard is any chemical that can hurt you if you touch it. Some are liquid and some are powder. Most chemicals are poisonous if swallowed. Never touch any chemicals without adult supervision!



# What is a Biohazard?

**A biohazard is anything that can spread disease. A dead animal is a biohazard. Old, used needles are also a biohazard.**

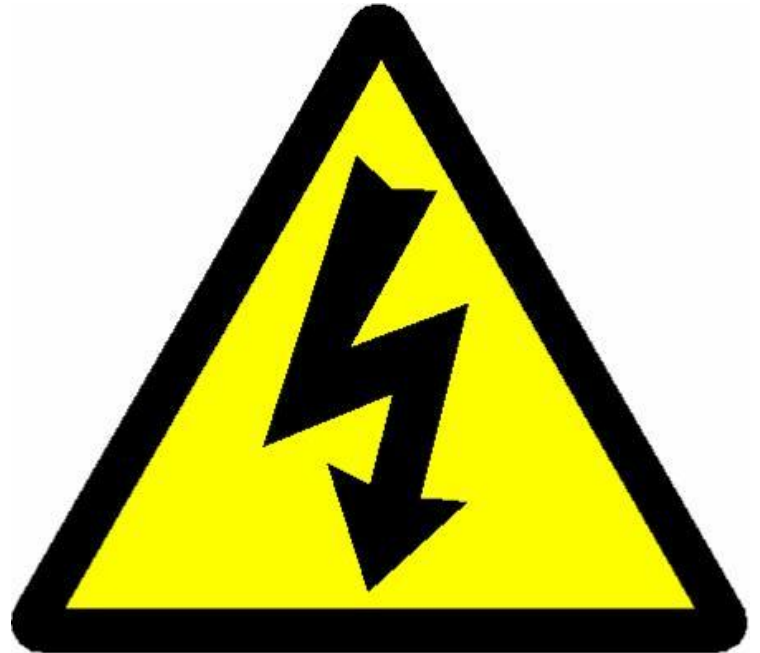


**Never touch anything marked as a biohazard!**



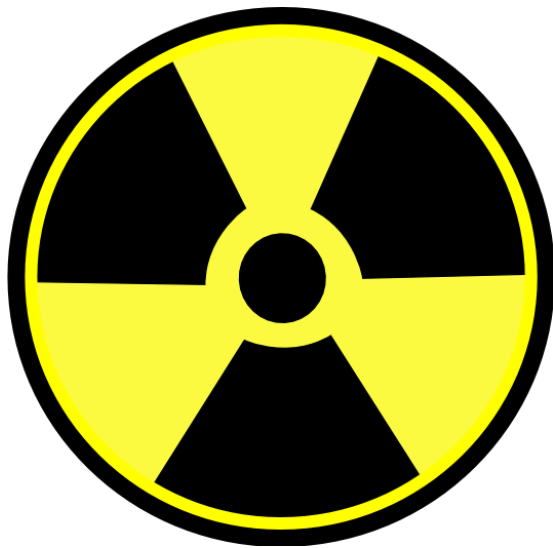
# What is an Electrical Hazard?

**An electrical hazard is anything involving electricity. A power outlet is an electrical hazard. You should never touch any electrical device without adult supervision!**



# What is a Radioactive hazard?

A radioactive hazard involves anything that emits radiation. A common source of radiation is a microwave oven. A microwave oven, however, is very safe. Unsafe sources of radiation are very rare. Do not touch anything with the below warning sign:



## What is a Flammable Hazard?

A flammable hazard is any item that will catch on fire easily. A match is an example of a flammable hazard. Gasoline is another good example. Never play with anything flammable without adult supervision!



Never touch anything with this symbol without adult supervision!

# What is a Poison Hazard?

A poison can be a powder, liquid, or aerosol that if you inhale or swallow will cause you great pain. Ant and Roach spray are examples of a poison. Never touch anything with a poison hazard label without adult supervision!



# Other Signs of Caution

Below are very common signs indicating potential dangers. If you see any of these signs you do not need to be afraid, but it is important that you be very careful.



**HAZMAT signs indicate the presence of a dangerous material. It is important that you do not touch any nearby liquid, powder, or other unknown substance.**



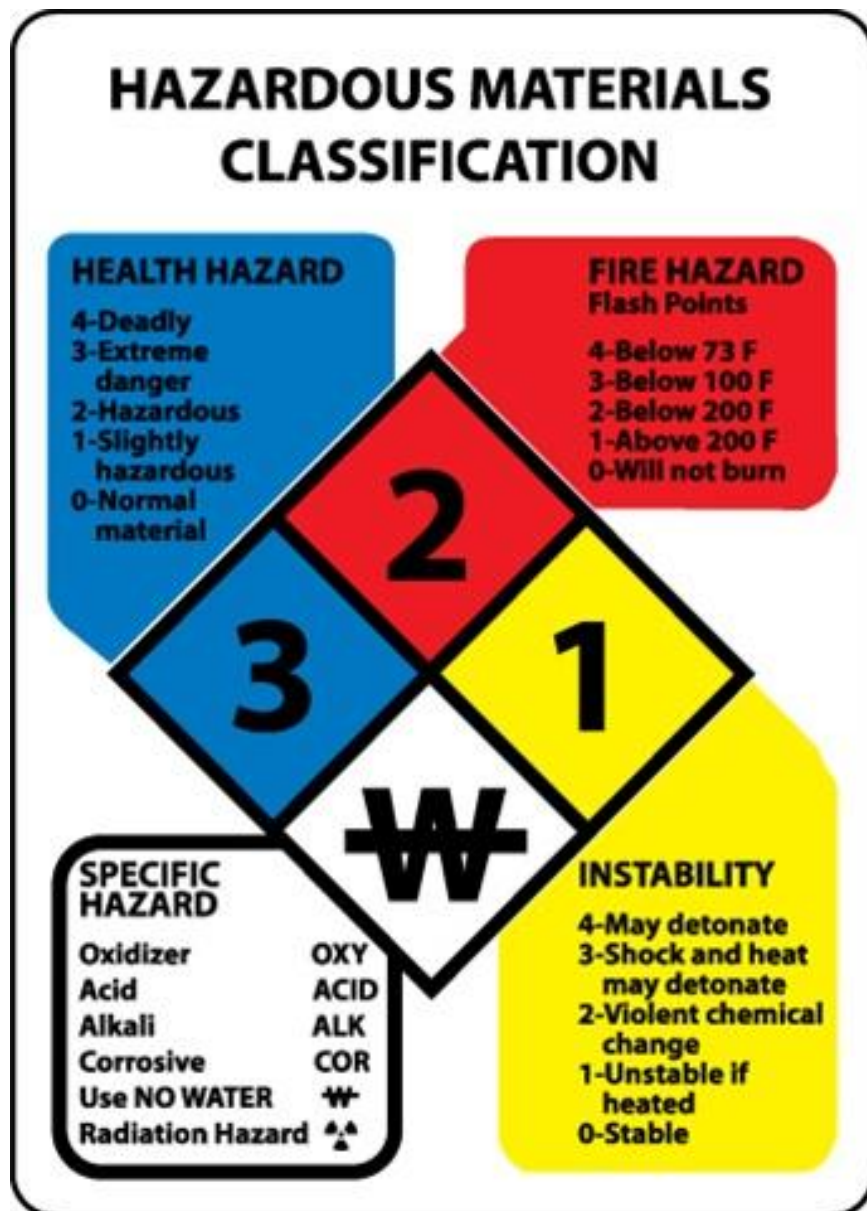
**Caution signs indicate particular hazards such as falling rocks, hot surfaces, slippery floors, etc. Always obey caution signs!**



**Danger signs indicate the presence of very bad hazards such as high voltage, explosives, harmful gases, etc. It is important that a trusted adult be with you in such areas.**

# For Parents/Teachers

Below is how you read a HAZMAT placard, which is commonly found on trucks and around chemical plants, gas stations, etc. It is not important to memorize the following information, but is helpful should you be near an accidental spill or traffic accident involving hazardous material. Know your dangers and you will keep your family safe.



# Whom Can You Trust?

Identify people you can trust in the below photographs. You can also trust a neighbor you know well, your babysitter, and most people wearing a uniform.



**Identify the danger in the following photos.  
See how fast you do it!**

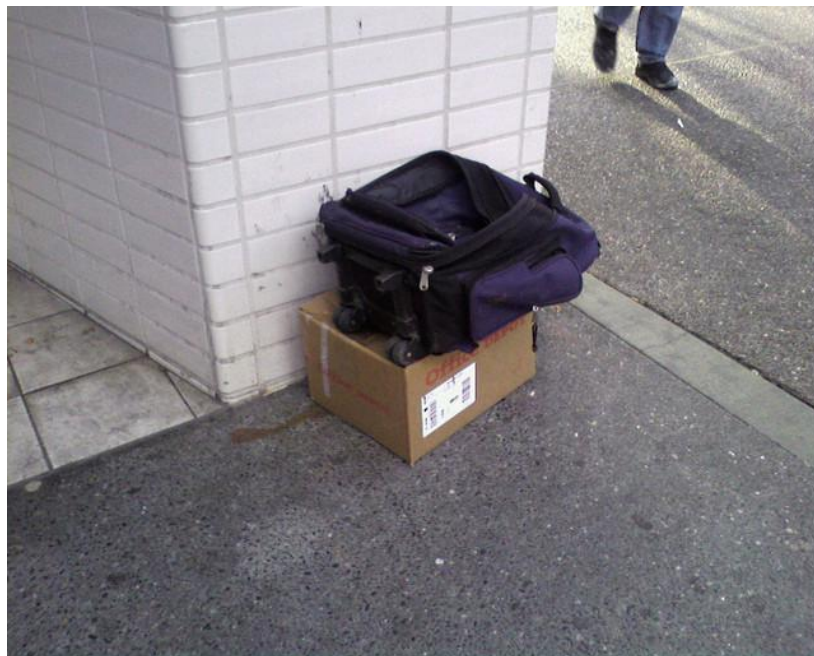












*(This one may be tough – unattended boxes and/or backpacks, suitcases, etc, may be potential IED/explosive hazards)*



*(Both are IED/explosive hazards – please explain to children what to look for in an IED)*



*(This one may be tough – it is a biohazard)*

# Identify the Danger: Connect the Name to the Danger.

1. Explosive



2. Chemical



3. Poison



4. Electrical



5. Radioactive



6. Biohazard



7. Flammable



# Identify the Safe Place





## **Parent/Child Activity: Create a Family *Emergency Plan.***

**Always have a family plan for emergencies:**

- **Whether at home or elsewhere, make sure your family knows what to do in an emergency.**
- **Establish a safe location where your family will meet should something occur (remember: public transportation may not be available).**
- **Make sure you know what your children's school or day care center has planned for an emergency.**
- **Make sure you and your family always carries an emergency telephone list so you know how to contact each other should something occur (remember: cell service and phones are commonly lost during special emergencies – you may have to use landlines).**

**Parent/Child Activity: Create an *Emergency Phone Number List* with your family. Keep it by the phone.**

**Use the following chart to make your *Emergency Phone Number List*. Tear the pages out of this book and post by your home phone.**

# Important Phone Numbers

**Emergency: 911**

**Fire:**

**Police:**

**Poison Control:**

**Postal Inspector:**

**Family Doctor:**

**Hospital:**

**School:**

**Daycare:**

**Family Phone Numbers:**

**Father's Work Number:**

**Mother's Work Number:**

**Sister's Work Number:**

**Brother's Work Number:**

## **Parent/Child Activity: List *Trusted Adults* and their contact information.**

**Use the following chart to make your *Trusted Adult Phone List*. Tear the pages out of this book and post by your home phone.**

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# Trusted Friends/Neighbors

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*Special Dangers* can be scary. Remember that it is okay to be scared.

Just stay calm and follow what you have learned in this book.

You are strong and you are smart – you will be alright.