

Here are the lyrics to The WHMIS Warble.

It is a song that I wrote in December 2010 about the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System in Canada. If you use it in your WHMIS training, please email me at marsht9@yahoo.com

An audio performance complete with snazzy slideshow is located at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5yjhO5AaXc>

The song is written to the tune “The Thing” by Phil Harris (1950’s !).

The WHMIS Warble

I strolled into receiving one dry cold sunny day

Packages and boxes in total disarray

They had no WHMIS labels

Or identifying marks

I got out of there with that boom boom boom to avoid the sparks

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When I entered the labor force I had no WHMIS smarts

All around the flammables

I would play lawn darts

Didn’t know the government had a master plan

To label nasty bottles and leave Afghanistan

To label nasty bottles and leave Afghanistan

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System

It sure is a mouthful

But you better listen

Substances must be labeled at your place of work

It's a legal responsibility that you cannot shirk

It's a legal responsibility that you cannot shirk

WHMIS became a law in the 1980's

Mulroney was the PM and I was making babies

The main focus is

The worker's right to know

So everything is labeled, from head right down to toe

Yes everything is labeled, from head right down to toe

Supplier labels list precautionary measures

First aid procedures and other sordid treasures

Risk phrases are shown like may explode if held

Highly irritating, like Newman on Seinfeld

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Workplace labels don't need as much detail

But still give instructions if the safeguards fail

Product's i.d. is printed with good inks

And notice should be given if the compound stinks

And notice should be given if the compound stinks

Material Safety Data Sheets contain 9 sections

Listing ingredients and safety directions

They must be updated every third year

I guess battery acid could turn into root beer

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We keep MSDS in binders and online

You know what to do if you're drenched in turpentine

Consult MSDS, take the correct action

Workplace safety is concrete, not an abstraction

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WHMIS icons are arranged alphabetically you know

Class A - compressed gas from a breakfast burrito

Class E – corrosive from high molarity

F - dangerously reactive like Brad Pitt and Jolie

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Class B is combustible like gasoline.

C 's an oxidizer like oxygen or bromine

Store B and C together, you better leave these parts

Cuz you might get a boom boom boom that is off the charts

Yes, you might get a boom boom boom that is off the charts

Class D refers to poisons, toxic things

D3 is biohazardous - deep-fried onion rings

D1's immediate serious effects – that sucks

And D2 is the sequel to the Mighty Ducks

And D2 is the sequel to the Mighty Ducks

Now WHMIS has a rich vocabulary

There's even a symbol if you can't eat dairy

Terms like Lethal Dose 50 and pH play a role

Hey! Affix them to my wife's tuna casserole

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Hazards can enter your body in many ways

Like absorption- soaking in mayonnaise

What? You think that problem is rather small.

Imagine the increase in your cholesterol.

Imagine the increase in your cholesterol.

Women of WHMIS. Men of MSDS

Learn the rules now, avoid a legal mess

At the xmas party, show off what you know

And you might get a great big kiss under WHMISletoe

And you might get a great big kiss under WHMISletoe

FRENCH VERSE

So, what was the boom boom boom

It is fair to ask

Handling it- should you wear goggles and a mask?

Read the WHMIS labels , they'll tell you every time

It was my Baba's chicken soup and that's my final rhyme

It was my Baba's chicken soup and that's my final rhyme

THE END !