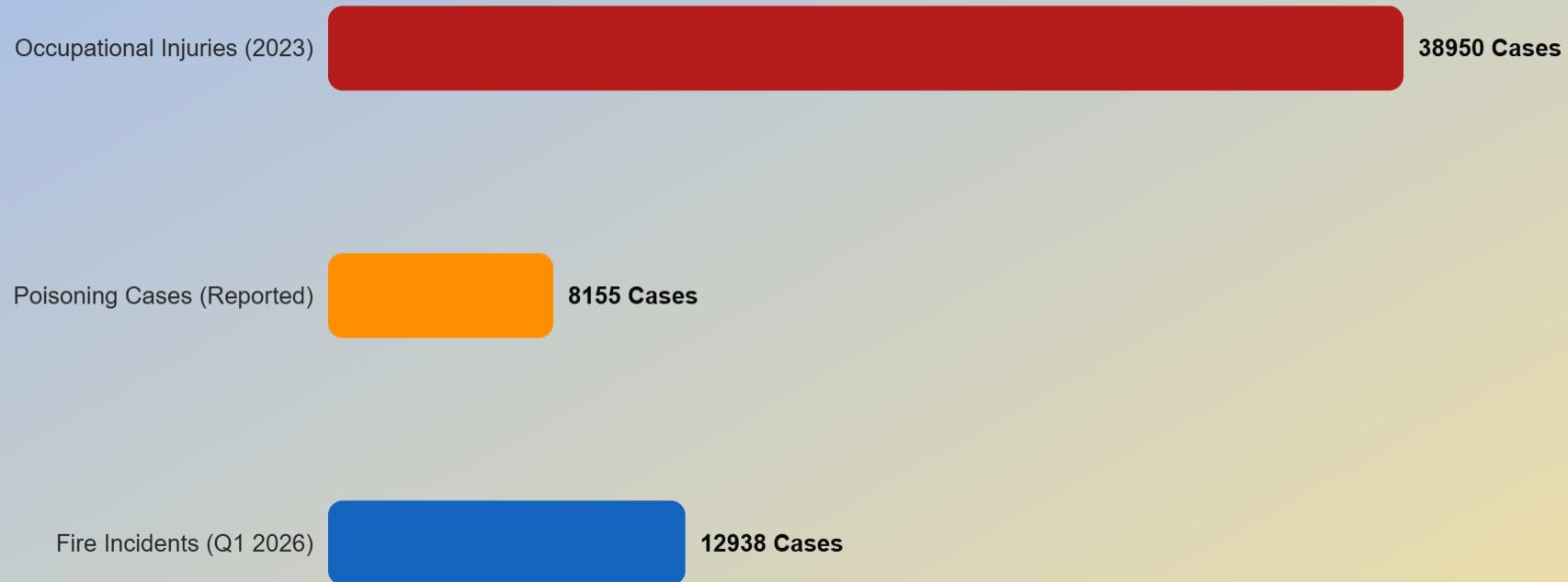


CHEMICAL SAFETY AWARENESS by Shereen Montero

Ensuring Workplace Compliance and Worker Protection in Malaysia · 2026 Edition

Hazard Landscape in Malaysia



Source: DOSM & Bomba Malaysia Statistical Reports 2023-2026

Malaysia's Regulatory Framework

The 2024 OSHA Amendments mandate stricter compliance across all industries. Employers now face ten-fold higher penalties for safety lapses in chemical handling.

KEY REGULATIONS

- OSHA 1994 (Amend. 2022):
Extends coverage to all workplaces.
- CLASS Regs 2013:
Mandatory GHS labeling & SDS.
- USECHH Regs 2000:
Chemical exposure monitoring every 6 months.
- RM500k Max Penalty:
For employer non-compliance (2024).

HAZARD LABELS

GHS Pictograms

Standardized diamond-shaped symbols with red borders identifying physical, health, and environmental hazards.



SDS PROTOCOLS

Safety Data Sheets

Detailed 16-section documents essential for hazard identification, first aid, and safe storage/handling.



Hierarchy of Risk Controls

1. Elimination & Substitution

Physically remove the hazard or replace with less toxic chemicals.

2. Engineering Controls

Isolate workers from the hazard using ventilation or fume hoods.

3. Administrative & PPE

Change the way people work; use respirators, gloves, and eye protection.

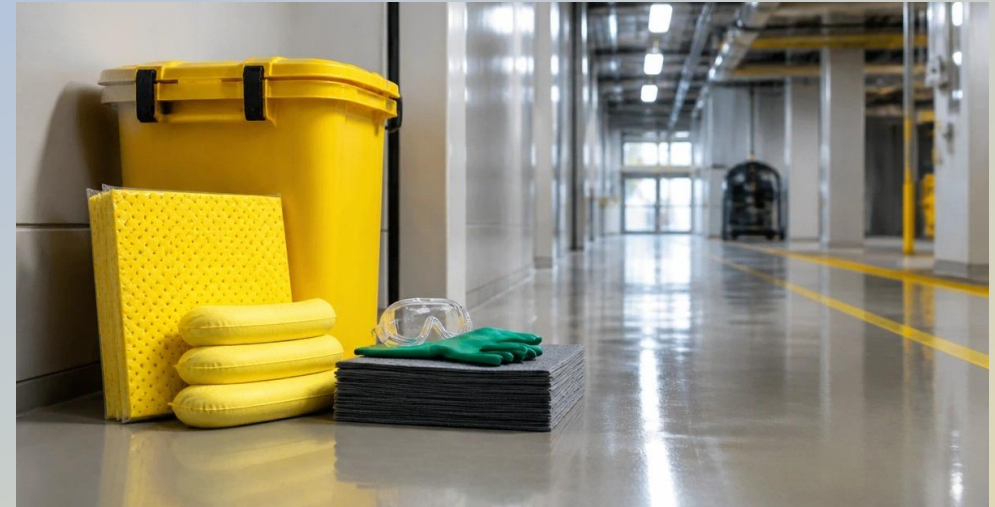
Safe Handling & Storage Tips

Action Area	Safety Requirement	CIMS Data Rule
Labeling	Check for GHS labels before use.	Inventory match required.
Storage	Store incompatibles separately.	Secondary containment req.
Handling	Always use spill palettes.	Volume tracking in CIMS.
Deadline	Annual DOSH notification.	Due: March 31, 2026.

Emergency Response Protocols

Immediate action saves lives. Malaysian workplaces must maintain spill kits and clear evacuation routes.

- Chemical Spills: Contain the spill only if trained. Use absorbent booms.
- Fires: Identify chemical class before using extinguishers. Alert Bomba (999).
- Exposure: Move victim to fresh air. Flush skin/eyes for 15+ minutes.



First Aid for Chemical Contact

SKIN CONTACT

Wash with plenty of water for 15-20 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing. Seek medical attention if irritation persists.

EYE CONTACT

Flush eyes immediately with water for 15 minutes, holding eyelids open. Rinse from inner corner outward.

INHALATION

Move victim to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. Keep patient warm and at rest.

Appropriate PPE for Chemical Work

PPE is the last line of defense. Selection must be based on the specific hazard class identified in the SDS.

- Respiratory: Half-face or full-face respirators with organic vapor cartridges.
- Hand: Nitrile or Neoprene gloves for solvent handling.
- Vision: Chemical splash goggles or full-face shields.
- Body: Tyvek suits or chemical-resistant aprons.



Learning from Recent Incidents

The Tebrau River incident in 2024 highlights the catastrophic impact of illegal chemical disposal. In workplaces, household-grade products remain a significant source of exposure.

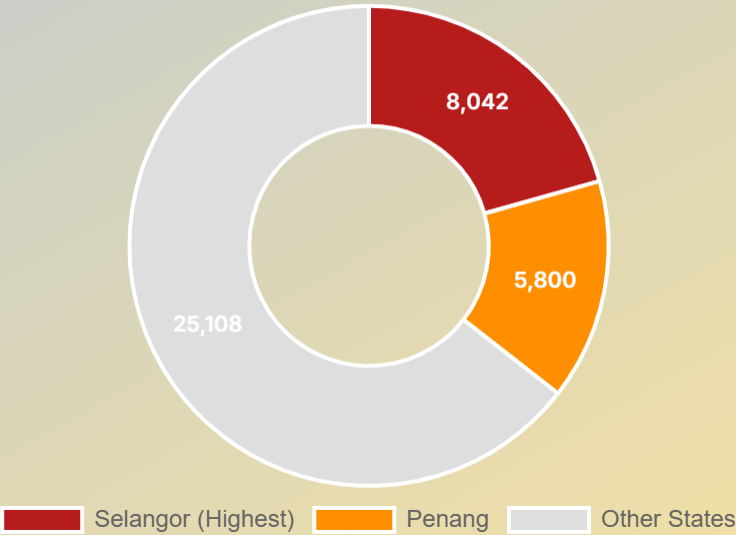
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SYMPTOMATIC VICTIMS
2024 Tebrau River Spill

53%

HOUSEHOLD POISONING
Cleaning Product Cases

Injuries by Incident Hotspot (2023)



Administrative Compliance Tasks

Compliance is an ongoing responsibility. Every workplace with chemicals must now adopt new roles and systems to avoid severe DOSH penalties.

- OSH Coordinator: Mandatory appointment for all workplaces with 5 or more employees as of 2024.
- CIMS Inventory: All hazardous chemicals must be reported in the Chemical Inventory Management System.
- Reporting Window: The final submission deadline for the current cycle is March 31, 2026.

ACTION CHECKLIST

1. Verify GHS labels on all incoming containers.
containers.
2. Update SDS folder with the latest revisions (UN GHS Rev 8).
3. Confirm OSH Coordinator has been officially appointed.
4. Complete the CIMS data submission before the 2026 deadline.
5. Schedule Chemical Exposure Monitoring for Schedule II chemicals.

SAFETY IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

**A well-trained worker and a
compliant workplace are the only
barriers against chemical disaster.
Act now to protect your team.**

For more info, contact DOSH Malaysia or visit the CIMS portal.

THANK YOU