

Table 16.2 **Equipment Normally Supplied by the Inspector**

Personal Items

Essential Items:

Personal identification (including passport/visa when appropriate)
Official identification
Driver's license
Credit cards/cash/traveler's checks (including change for pay phones)
Backpack
Eyeglasses/safety glasses (including extras)
Prescription medication
Hard hat
Boots/sturdy shoes
Rain gear/extra clothing
Personal hygiene supplies
Dust mask

Suggested Items:

Canteen
Water purification tablets
Safety goggles
Safety vests
Gloves
Knee pads
Sleeping bag
First aid kit
Sunscreen lotion

Field Equipment

Essential Items:

Clipboard
Paper/notebook
Pens/pencils
Flashlight and extra batteries

Suggested Items:

Portable battery-powered radio
Camera (possibly polaroid), film, flash equipment, and extra batteries
Cassette tape recorder, blank tapes and batteries
Tape measure
Magnetic compass
Swiss army knife
Waterproof paper/notebook

inspector should leave the area immediately. Further indications of the presence of a hazardous material spill are dead animals or powdery or slippery substances on things in the area of the suspected spill (FEMA, 1985).

Most commercial chemicals in warehouses or storage areas are marked in a uniform fashion as to the relative safety of their contents. In all workplaces, "Material Safety Data Sheets" listing all chemicals at the facility must be posted. SARA, Title 3, PL99-499, Oct. 1986, requires that the local fire department receive a copy of these data sheets as well as pertinent inventory information. If possible, try to obtain this information before beginning the inspection. Many communities have assigned the responsibility for maintaining such information to certain agencies or organizations, and these groups should be contacted.

Stationary tanks and facilities are normally labeled according to the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 704 Standard. The NFPA label consists of a diamond-shaped placard, divided into four sectors, that identifies hazards in three categories: health, flammability, and reactivity (instability). The severity of the hazard is rated on a scale from 0 (no special hazard) to 4 (severe hazard). The left side of the placard, color coded blue by use of colored background or numbers, displays a number indicating the health hazard. The right side, coded yellow, indicates instability, and the top, coded red, indicates flammability. The fourth quadrant, the bottom, is used to present additional information. Possibilities include: unusual reactivity to water, radioactivity, the proper fire extinguishing agent to use in case of fire, or special protective equipment required (NFPA, 1985).

Sites that have potential spills should be approached from upwind. If a spill is suspected, do not approach. When a damage inspector does come upon a hazardous material spill, he or she should leave the area immediately. The next step is to alert the fire department and the regional OES office (or equivalent) and to keep all bystanders away from the area. If possible, try to record precisely the name of the chemical from any label on the container.

When inside buildings, inspectors should be aware of the possibility of asbestos contamination. If the inspector suspects that asbestos has been disturbed, for example by damage to fireproofing or to pipe and boiler insulation, he or she should immediately leave the area and post it Area Unsafe. Do not