Reactivity of Hazardous Materials

These properties help determine how reactive a substance is with air or other materials.

Air Reactivity...

how likely a substance is to ignite or release energy when exposed to air

Substances with high air reactivity may be dangerous when exposed to air.

Catalysts and Inhibitors...

- Catalysts are substances that increase the rate of a chemical reaction.
- Inhibitors slow down the rate of reaction.

Inhibitors may be added to highly reactive substances to make them more stable.

Oxidation Ability...

how readily a substance gives off oxygen

Oxidizers easily give off large amounts of oxygen.

Released oxygen increases the rate at which nearby combustible materials burn.

Polymerization...

an often violent chemical reaction in which large molecules are formed from many small molecules

Water Reactivity...

how readily a substance reacts with water

Some materials react explosively on exposure to water.