



The “Big Three” Warning Signs

➔ LOOK – Visual Red Flags

- **Bulging, wet, or stained boxes** may indicate leaking chemicals, damaged batteries, or shifting liquids.
- **Old or conflicting hazardous labels** should always be treated as suspicious.
- **Vapor or frost** on a package may signal leaking compressed gas or improperly packaged dry ice.

➔ FEEL – Physical Red Flags

- **Hot packages or luggage** can indicate a lithium-ion battery entering thermal runaway.
- **Unexpected liquid movement (“sloshing”)** inside packages labeled as dry goods or machinery is a warning sign.

➔ SMELL & LISTEN – Sensory Red Flags

- **Chemical odors** such as ammonia, rotten eggs, gasoline, pool chemicals, or sweet solvent smells may indicate hazardous leaks.
- **Hissing or clicking sounds** can signal leaking pressurized containers or malfunctioning electronic devices.



Detecting Undeclared or Hidden Hazardous Materials

See It. Stop It. Report It.

In this issue of **Inside CHOICE Aviation**, we highlight the importance of detecting undeclared or hidden hazardous materials. While most shipments are properly packaged and declared, some may contain hazardous materials that are mislabeled, improperly packed, or not declared at all. These hidden hazards can pose serious risks to our employees, equipment, customers, and aircraft. Whether you’re accepting cargo, building ULDs, or loading baggage, your awareness and attention to detail are the first line of defense. Recognizing the warning signs and taking immediate action when something doesn’t look, feel, smell, or sound right can prevent a small issue from becoming a major safety incident.

Common Hidden Hazards

Cargo Type	Potential Hidden Hazard
E-Commerce & General Mail	Lithium batteries, power banks, vaping devices, electronics
Automotive Parts	Residual fuel, oil, wet-cell batteries
Camping & Sporting Goods	Butane canisters, camp stoves, matches
Medical/Laboratory Shipments	Dry ice and other cooling agents

If In Doubt... LEAVE IT OUT!

If a package or piece of luggage **looks, feels, smells, or sounds unusual**:

- **STOP** handling the item immediately.
- **ISOLATE** it from other cargo if it is safe to do so.
- **REPORT** it immediately to your Lead, Supervisor, or Station Safety Officer.

- ⊗ **Never** open, puncture, or attempt to investigate the package yourself.

Remember !

A damaged lithium-ion battery can enter **thermal runaway in less than 60 seconds**, generating temperatures exceeding **1,000°F** and creating a rapidly spreading fire.

One suspicious package can impact an entire aircraft operation—but one alert employee can prevent it.



**Stay Alert. Protect Your Team.
Safety Starts With You.**