



TOOLBOX TALK #29

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 29

Hazard Communication

Virtually every jobsite contains chemicals and other hazardous substances that can cause illness or injury when mishandled or used improperly. There is a federal law in place to set standards by which you are protected against these substances. This is known as the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, and we comply with it.

You should be able to recognize the substances covered by this law in most cases. Hazardous substances should be labeled, but even if they are not, you should be trained regarding their potential health hazards. We provide training on how to read and understand a Material Safety Data Sheet. If you are not currently familiar with any substance to which you are exposed on the job, please request a copy of the MSDS. If you are unsure of its health hazards, or any other aspect covered on the MSDS, be sure to ask before returning to your work. It is essential that your knowledge on this subject be current. The MSDS will contain information regarding the hazard of the substance to your body, how to prevent exposure to the chemical, what to do if you are exposed to it, and other information regarding the properties of the substance.

Containers must be labeled. If you find chemicals or other hazardous substances that are not properly labeled, report it immediately. Remember, there may be other companies represented on our job sites, and if they are not in compliance with this law, we will take action to protect each of you. Our responsibility to you is absolute, regardless of who might cause a hazard to exist on our job site. The purpose of this federal standard is to protect you against short and long term exposure to hazardous substances. Our company shares this commitment, but when dealing with chemicals, you must seek information in order to protect yourself. If you do not remember some of the issues related to Material Safety Data Sheets, or other aspect of hazard communication, let me know so that we can bring your knowledge current.

Facilitator Notes: Ideally, you should have printed copies of a MSDS that would be common to most job sites. Review the MSDS and make sure you, yourself, are familiar with how to read and interpret one. Point out some of the other common substances that are on your job sites and ask questions. In order to comply with this standard, your employee's knowledge must be kept current, so spend some time on the subject to make sure every member of your crew understands the MSDS and their rights and responsibilities.

Additional Notes: _____

Crew Member Comments: _____

Presented By: _____ **Date/Time** _____

Attendees: _____

List additional attendees on back of sheet