



## TOOLBOX TALK #45

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 45

### Hazardous Material Spills

Chemicals are present on most job sites. State and Federal laws govern many aspects of hazardous chemicals, including your safety, the release of chemicals into the environment and procedures for containing and mitigating spills. The latter will be today's focus.

There are four classifications of hazardous chemicals you are likely to work with or around: Ignitable, Toxic, Caustic, and Reactive. Your Material Safety Data Sheets will tell which classification applies. However, regardless of the chemical classification, the following procedures should be followed in the event of a spill:

When a chemical spill occurs, it should be reported to the supervisor immediately. The area should be barricaded or otherwise secured and all personnel on the job site kept away from the spill. We will notify the appropriate public officials depending on the locale of the job site. Such information is secured in our site-specific plans for each job. Do not begin clean up of the spill until directed. Immediately shut off or eliminate all possible sources of ignition that could produce a spark or flame. In the event of a chemical spill, smoking is immediately banned on the job site until the danger has passed. Ignitable spills require a fire extinguisher be kept at hand.

In some cases, only qualified HAZMAT personnel will be permitted to conduct clean up of chemical spills. Again, this depends on local codes and varies from job site to job site. If you do participate in a clean up operation, you will be given further training, Personal Protective Equipment as needed and a detailed review of the applicable Material Safety Data Sheet. If you have any questions about a chemical you work with or around, review the MSDS and ask for additional information until you are comfortable that you understand its properties, hazards and protection methods.

Facilitator Notes: Long gone are the days when you could just clean up a mess. Each local governing body has its own rules that are a part of your site-specific plan. Use the current plan as an example and walk through the steps that would take place if you were to have a spill on the job site. Have a copy of the appropriate MSDS and use the talk as an opportunity to refresh your crew on the information contained in them.

**Additional Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Crew Member Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Presented By:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date/Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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List additional attendees on back of sheet