

Toolbox Talks 2

025: Hazard Communication, Part 3

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Review your company's safety literature, in regard to Personal Protective Equipment needed for working around solvents and other chemicals.

What this Safety Talk covers:

Total body protection, under the Hazard Communication System.

Discussion notes:

Background

When you work with hazardous materials, you need to ensure you don't leave some part of your body inadequately protected. To provide complete protection, protect each body part. Mentally "walking down" your body from head to toe will help you achieve this.

Some Hazard Communication System facts

- The HCS ensures you know the necessary protection for each chemical, but not necessarily each body part.
- You will find the protection information on product labels, in MSDS, in work procedures, and in company training. You will have to put the information from all of these sources together.
- Dividing the body into zones and assessing each body zone for its protection needs with the information provided through your company's HCS program or policy is a sound strategy for protecting the entire body.
- The zones are head, eyes, lungs, torso, arms, legs, hands, and feet.

Hazard Communication System best practices

- Wear your hard hat. It does more than protect you from impact and electric shock. It also helps protect you from chemicals that may drip on you.
- Wear safety glasses at all times when on the jobsite, except in designated areas where they aren't required—such as break rooms. The product label, MSDS, posted signs, or work procedures may require goggles or a face shield to prevent chemical splash or other dangers.
- With solvents, use small quantities at a time and keep lids on whenever possible.
- Ventilate, as allowed by the MSDS, label, and site practices, to reduce concentrations.
- Reduce exposure by staying in the area only long enough to do the job.
- Use the right respirator for the job and conditions, using the MSDS as a guide.
- Read product labels, work procedures, and the MSDS for any special clothing, hoods, gloves, or footwear requirements.
- Think of possible hazards (e.g., spilling on your feet) and protect accordingly.
- If in doubt, err on the side of "too much" protection.

Review and discussion

1. What is a sound strategy for ensuring you protect your entire body from hazardous chemicals?
2. What are the body zones you should assess for protection?

3. Where will you find protection information?
4. How does wearing your hard hat protect you from chemicals?
5. When should you wear your safety glasses?
6. What might you need to use to protect your eyes, and how can you know?
7. How can you reduce the amount of vapors emitted by solvents?
8. How does ventilation help? Might there be restrictions on how you can ventilate, and if so, where would you find out about these?
9. What should you read to know of any special requirements for clothing, hoods, gloves, or footwear?
10. What if you're not sure a particular item of PPE is really needed?

Participant's Signature and Date

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