



Tailgate Topic Review

[PP 04/28/2019 - 05/11/2019]

Reporting Unsafe Condition HazComm – SDS Shop/Plant inspection Safe Procedures

In 2014, nearly 2,000 construction workers suffered from work-related illnesses affecting their skin or lungs, and 100 of them were poisoned. And these are just the [cases reported](#) to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Survey of Injuries and Illnesses. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported in 2008 that [“as much as 69% of injuries and illnesses may never make it into the survey.”](#) So, even if these cases are only under-reported by half, that’s a doubling of the numbers of people affected.

Hazardous substances come in many forms including gases, vapors, fumes, dusts, and mists and construction jobsites have more than their fair share of these substances. Manufacturers publish material safety data sheets that explain the properties, dangers, and safe working conditions for the potentially hazardous substances they produce. These are often included with product and material specifications for construction projects, and are available from the manufacturers.

The two most common types of hazardous materials are found in solvents and dust.

Solvents

You can find solvents in adhesives, paints, and cleaning fluids. While they are generally thought of as hazardous when inhaled, they are also dangerous when they come into contact with your skin. Solvents come in handy for dissolving grease, oils, and paints, and they also thin out materials like stains. Examples include acetone, alcohol, benzene, esters, ketones, and mineral spirits.

These substances are dangerous because breathing them, getting them on your skin, and swallowing them not only immediately affect nerves and brain function, but they also get stored in body fat. Whenever you’re working around these materials there is also a greater danger of fire.

Small exposures over a long timeframe are just as harmful as very large one-time exposures. Some of the symptoms of exposure include dizziness, lack of coordination, headache, nausea, stomach pain, cracked or bleeding skin, and irritated eyes, nose, and throat. Solvents can blind



Tailgate Topic Review

you, ruin your internal organs like kidneys and liver, and harm your nervous system. They also cause irregular heartbeats, cancer, and death.

Some solvents are more dangerous because you can't smell them. Using paper dust masks provides no protection from them and for some of the more dangerous ones, even organic vapor cartridges may not prevent their effects.

If you are working indoors or in a confined space, such as in a trench, exposure levels can increase very quickly. When dealing with solvents be sure to read the material safety data sheets, keep them away from your skin, wash up before eating, drinking, or smoking, use them only where there is fresh air, and use personal protective equipment where engineering or work practice controls won't work.

Dust

Dust from construction activities affects more than just the workers. In large enough quantities it affects nearby homes and businesses, and in larger quantities it affects entire communities. Some dusts are dangerous when even a small amount is inhaled while most others can cause lung diseases when inhaled over long periods of time. The primary types of dust found on construction projects are silica dust, wood dust, and lower toxicity dusts.

Silica dust comes from working with materials that contain silica like concrete, mortar, and sandstone. Activities like grinding, sawing, polishing, and cutting, create a very fine type of silica dust that gets deeply lodged in the lungs when inhaled. [Lung damage](#) can often happen quickly and can include silicosis, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and lung cancer.

Whenever you are cutting or sanding wood products such as softwood, hardwood, plywood, OSB, and medium density fiberboard, you are exposed to wood dust.

Lower toxicity dusts come from working with materials like drywall, limestone, and marble. Dusts from these sources also have damaging effects on your airways and lungs. The best defense against dust is to control it as you work with materials. You can use engineering and work practice controls such as keeping the material wet as it's being cut or vacuuming the dust as it comes off the tool.



Tailgate Topic Review

When you assess which controls to use, consider the task, the work area, the amount of time the task takes, and the frequency of the task. If the task uses a lot of energy like that generated by grinders and cutoff saws, then there will be a lot of dust created in a very short period of time.

An enclosed space will allow the dust buildup in greater volumes and more quickly than in outdoor areas. However, on a still day, high-energy tools could very quickly fill even an outdoor space with too much dust. Doing the same kind of dust creating work every day increases your health risks when the dust is not controlled properly.

Material Safety Data Sheets

All materials control inspectors shall communicate with each location managers regarding the use or storage of hazardous chemicals that the inspector may come in contact with.

For more information refer to BCA-IIPP Ch 08

1. Communication of the BCA HazCom plan will be conducted during the scheduled Tailgate Safety Meeting training.
2. **Supervisor Responsibility**
 - a. It is the supervisor's responsibility to know what hazardous chemicals are at their staffs' worksites.
 - b. It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure their staff is trained in the safe handling of any hazardous substances in their work areas. This generally would require the contractor provide the SDS and appropriate training for any exposure or use (if the BCA inspector will be in contact).
 - c. Complete BCA HazComm Reporting Form for any employee that may be exposed to a hazardous chemical at BCA controlled facilities.
3. **Employee Responsibility**
 - a. At the beginning of all worksite assignments meet with the contractor to determine if the inspector will be exposed to hazardous chemicals.
 - b. Prior to any chemical/application/coating etc, being started the BCA inspector shall contact the contractor to ensure that all Haz/Comm information has been reviewed and that safe working procedures are in place. This includes the identification and use of PPE.
 - c. Notify their supervisor of any hazardous chemicals on site, verification of training by the contractor and their receipt of the hazardous chemical SDS.
4. §5194. Hazard Communication (c) Definitions. Exposure or Exposed.
Any situations arising from work operation where an employee may ingest, inhale, absorb through the skin or eyes, or otherwise come into contact with a hazardous chemical.
5. Exposure relates to three major workplace exposure routes, mouth (oral), skin (dermal), or breathing (inhalation).



Tailgate Topic Review

HazCom or "Right to Know" Program ensures that employees have access to information on the chemicals they use in the workplace. HazCom standard is a health and safety regulation that requires employers to provide workers with information and training on the characteristics, hazards, and uses of chemicals in the workplace. All workers should be able to identify dangers associated with these label markings.

§5194. Hazard Communication. Mandatory for all BCA Employees

(h) Employee Information and Training.

(1) Employers shall provide employees with effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment, and whenever a new chemical hazard is introduced into their work area. Information and training may relate to general classes of hazardous chemicals to the extent appropriate and related to reasonably foreseeable exposures of the job. Chemical-specific information must always be available through labels and safety data sheets.

(2) Information and training shall consist of at least the following topics:

(A) Employees shall be informed of the requirements of this section.

(B) Employees shall be informed of any operations in their work area where hazardous chemicals are present.

(C) Employees shall be informed of the location and availability of the written hazard communication program.

(D) Employees shall be trained in the methods and observations that may be used to detect the presence or release of a hazardous chemical in the work area (such as monitoring conducted by the employer, continuous monitoring devices, visual appearance or odor of hazardous chemicals when being released, etc.).

(E) Employees shall be trained in "ALL" hazards... of the chemicals in the work area, and the measures they can take to protect themselves from these hazards.

Further definition can be found in OSHA Regulations 1910.1200(b)(2) This section applies to any chemical which is known to be present in the workplace in such a manner that employees may be exposed under normal conditions of use or in a foreseeable emergency.

(F) Employees shall be trained in the details of the hazard communication program developed by the employer.

(G) Employers shall inform employees of the right:

1. To personally receive information regarding hazardous chemicals to which they may be exposed, according to the provisions of this section;



Tailgate Topic Review

2. For their physician or MOU agent to receive information regarding hazardous chemicals to which the employee may be exposed according to provisions of this section;
3. Against discharge or other discrimination due to the employee's exercise of these rights

(3) Whenever the employer receives a new or revised safety data sheet, such information shall be provided to employees on a timely basis not to exceed 30 days after receipt, if the new information indicates significantly increased risks to, or measures necessary to protect, employee health as compared to those stated on a safety data sheet previously provided.

BCA HazComm Written Program

There are four sections in this program:

1. Identifying Hazardous Chemicals

- Any BCA controlled site will have a poster that states any hazardous chemicals on site. (See attached example)

2. Identifying Containers of Hazardous Chemicals

- All hazardous chemicals will consistent with Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of labeling
- Each chemical shall have an affixed label that states the BCA employee responsible for the inventory and use of the chemical. This label will include the name and contact information of this person.
- Only chemicals displaying the original manufacturer's labeling will be allowed on site.
- When a portion of that chemical is required and used from a smaller container for application the leftover chemical, when the application is completed, will be disposed per the SDS.

3. SDS Inventory

- BCA Safety Committee shall maintain a record of all Safety Data Sheets for chemicals at BCA controlled facilities.
- All chemicals will be identified and reported on during the monthly Safety Committee meeting.

4. Training/PPE

- Before BCA employees start their jobs or are exposed to new hazardous chemicals, they must receive training that covers on that chemical and complete the BCA HazCom Reporting Form (See attached)
- Any employee that handles or is exposed to a hazardous chemical shall receive the SDS required PPE and complete training in its use.