WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 49 Vol. 21 Week of 12/7/15

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

COLD WEATHER AND TEMPORARY HEATERS

The weather sure has changed — gone are those hot days of summer. Winter is fast approaching, so today's safety meeting addresses cold weather safety and the use of temporary heaters.

Cold weather adds a new dimension to construction work — you must be aware of increased hazards that range from slippery roads and work surfaces to the danger of frostbite. Here are several tips to beat the cold. Clean off and warm up your car before you head out, and allow extra time to reach your destination. Watch out for slippery steps, walkways, and scaffolding. Warm clothing is essential to working comfortably in the winter, so layer your clothing. Several light layers will keep you warmer than one or two heavy layers. Avoid leaving skin exposed. Exposure to severe cold can result in frostbite, and your ears, nose, fingers, and toes are the most susceptible. Wear a liner under your hard hat. Keep your feet and clothing dry.

When warm clothing isn't enough, we often turn to other sources of heat, such as temporary heaters, so we can work comfortably. Temporary heaters keep us warm, but they can be hazardous if not operated safely. Here are a few things to remember when working around portable heaters. In heating devices fueled by kerosene, fuel oil, or propane, carbon monoxide is given off during the combustion process. Make sure you have adequate fresh air. Avoid standing too close to a heating device. One wrong move and you could find your clothes on fire. Combustible materials stored near a heater are a fire hazard. It doesn't take much for cardboard, packing material, or newspaper to catch fire. Consider taking the device outside and letting it cool off prior to re-filling the fuel tank. Even a minor fuel spill could cause a fire or an explosion, and serious injury.

There are dangers involved in storing and handling propane cylinders. For example, on one site several laborers were unloading gas cylinders from the back of a truck when one of the cylinders fell to the ground and ruptured, spewing propane everywhere. The gas found an ignition source and a large explosion occurred, sending the workers to the hospital.

Winter will always be a dangerous season, but a little caution and increased awareness will go a long way toward eliminating needless accidents and injuries.

SAFETY REMINDER

Gloves reduce your ability to grip tools and materials — be careful.

Special Topics For Your Project _____

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Employee Safety Recommendations _____

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Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____ _____

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Supervisor's Signature _____

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

RESPIRATORS

Respirators prevent lung pollution. Your lungs become polluted when you inhale air that's polluted with harmful dust, fumes, mist, gases, or smoke. Think about it — you breathe 16 to 24 times a minute, and even more if you are doing strenuous work. Your lungs are designed to work on clean, uncontaminated air, not a smoggy mix of chemical vapors, grinder particles, and toxic fumes. Construction workers wear respirators on the job every day. There are many workers who should wear respirators but don't. They use their lungs to collect all of those harmful materials. The end result is dirty, polluted lungs. When your respirator filters get dirty, they can be cleaned or replaced — it's almost impossible to replace your lungs when they get dirty.

Respirators must be provided by your employer when engineering controls are not feasible to control occupational diseases caused by breathing contaminated air. As of October 5th 1998, OSHA began requiring all employers to develop written respiratory protection programs. Each program must contain worksite-specific procedures. Some of the other requirements of the standard include:

- Hazard evaluation – to assist employers in selecting appropriate respirators.
- Medical evaluation – to determine whether the employee can safely and effectively use the selected respirator.
- Fit testing – to ensure that the respirator will do its job properly.
- Employee training — to instruct the employee in the proper care and use of the respirator.
- Periodic program re-evaluation – to ensure that the program is accurate and up-to-date.

Medical evaluations include completing a medical history, physical exam, pulmonary function test, and an observation of worker using a respirator. Fit testing is accomplished by qualitative testing to make sure the wearer cannot detect or taste, and is not bothered by nasal irritation when an agent is released around the respirator wearer.

Once you have been approved to wear a respirator it's up to you to maintain it — inspect your respirator prior to each use, clean it after each use, and store it properly. Consider enrolling in a respirator training course to learn more about the types of respirators, how to use them, and how they function. If you need additional information on respirators ask your supervisor or consult OSHA standards 29 CFR 1910.134 and 1926.103.

SAFETY REMINDER

Divers wear respiratory equipment so they don't drown under water. Your respirator will prevent you from drowning in airborne pollution.

Special Topics For Your Project _____

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Employee Safety Recommendations _____

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Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____ _____

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Supervisor's Signature _____

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

BATTERY CHARGING AND JUMPING

Today's topic talks about a subject you typically don't think about until the need arises. As a matter of fact, years may go by before you are faced with the necessity of charging a battery or jump-starting a vehicle. Think back to the last time that your battery was dead. It was probably in the dead of winter. You grabbed a cup of coffee on your way out the door, and got into the car or pickup, but when you turned the key nothing happened. Perhaps you said a few words under your breath, but it still didn't start. The next step was either to charge the battery or to jump-start the vehicle.

If you need to charge a battery keep the following information in mind. Charging should only be done in well-ventilated areas. During the charging process, the battery may produce hydrogen gas, which is explosive. Good ventilation will prevent the accumulation of this gas. All ignition sources should be kept away from the charging area — don't smoke, and don't charge batteries near furnaces, water heaters, welding operations, etc. Place the charger on a non-combustible surface. When moving batteries to or from the charging area, make sure that the filler caps are in place. The liquid inside batteries is sulfuric acid, which can cause burns, so don't get any on your skin and always wear safety goggles.

Since charging a battery takes a fair amount of time, most of us will choose to jump-start the vehicle. From previous safety training you know that you have to identify the positive (red) and negative (black) terminals of each battery. Remember that the order in which you connect the cables is very important, and that eye protection is a must. The vehicles should not be touching, and both ignitions should be turned off. Make the connections in the following order:

1. Connect one end of the red cable to the positive terminal of the dead battery.
2. Connect the other end of the red cable to the positive terminal of the good battery.
3. Connect one end of the black cable to the negative terminal of the good battery.
4. Connect the other end of the black cable to the frame or engine block of the car with the dead battery.

Make the connection to the frame or engine block as far away from the dead battery as possible. It is very likely that there will be some sparks when this last connection is made, and you want to keep those sparks away from the battery. After you get the car started, disconnect the cables in the reverse order.

SAFETY REMINDER

We hope your holidays are very happy, and that you have a safe and prosperous New Year.

Special Topics For Your Project _____

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Employee Safety Recommendations _____

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Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____ _____

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Supervisor's Signature _____

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

ASBESTOS

What: Asbestos is a flexible, noncombustible, inorganic, microscopic fiber, which has been used for many years in the construction industry as an insulating material. Asbestos comes in several forms, the most common of which are chrysotile and amosite. Chrysotile, also known as white asbestos, is used in insulation, fireproofing, and soundproofing. Amosite, which is brown in color, is found in brake shoes and clutches.

When: You should take precautions any time you are handling asbestos or working in an area where asbestos fibers may be present. When in doubt, ask your supervisor to check it out.

Why: Airborne asbestos fibers constitute a health hazard. Asbestos has been found to cause lung cancer, as well as chronic lung diseases, including asbestosis, which is chronic inflammation of the lungs.

Where: Caution should be exercised in all types of construction, repair, maintenance, etc. because asbestos is still used today, though it is not as common as it was in the past. Asbestos is frequently found in many older structures. You should be especially cautious when doing renovation, demolition, or salvage work in or on these buildings.

How: Employers are required to protect their workers and ensure that no one is exposed to an airborne concentration of asbestos in excess of 0.1 fibers/cubic centimeter (f/cc) as an eight hour time-weighted average. All asbestos work performed within regulated areas must be supervised by a competent person. This person must be capable of identifying existing asbestos hazards and selecting the appropriate control strategy for asbestos exposure. You can reduce your exposure by following your employer's safety requirements, and by adhering to posted signs and warnings. Additional information can be found in OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1926.1101.

SAFETY REMINDER

Working with asbestos is no party.
Avoid eating or drinking in contaminated areas.

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____