WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 36 Vol. 21 Week of 9/7/15

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

MSDSs

It's been almost ten years since the Hazard Communication Standard was enacted, but many construction workers still don't know exactly what the standard covers or how it protects them. The standard addresses five main topics: 1) identifying hazardous materials, 2) product warning labels, 3) material safety data sheets, 4) written hazard communication program, and 5) employee training. Today we will focus on the third topic: material safety data sheets or MSDSs.

The MSDS is a reference sheet that includes important information about a chemical. The MSDS is furnished to your employer by the manufacturer or supplier of the material. Just as a set of blueprints describes how to build a building, the MSDS describes how to safely handle and use a hazardous material. Included in these plans are the following:

- Chemical Name and Manufacturer's Name
- Hazardous Ingredients
- Physical and Chemical Characteristics
- Fire and Explosion Data
- Reactivity Data
- Health Hazards
- Special Precautions and Spill Procedures
- Special Protection Information and Control Measures.

It makes good sense to know what you will be working with before using any chemical. You should review the MSDS. If you see "caution", "hazardous", or "flammable" on the label, pay special attention to the parts of the MSDS that help you abate these hazards. The special protection information and control measures section discusses the types of PPE you will need to wear.

You have the right and responsibility to review the MSDS prior to using any chemical. Most employers keep MSDSs in a binder in job trailer. If you are working on a large project, they may be in the office trailer for the general contractor or construction manager. If you have a question about a particular MSDS, ask your supervisor.

To summarize the third topic of the Hazard Communication Standard: recognize hazardous materials, know where to find the appropriate MSDS, take time to read both the MSDS and the label, and follow all handling instructions. If you do all these things, you can work safely with hazardous chemicals.

SAFETY REMINDER

Knowledge is power.
The knowledge you gain from MSDSs
gives you the power to work safely with chemicals.

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

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 37 Vol. 21 Week of 9/14/15

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

There is no doubt that electricity makes our lives much easier here at work. We use it all over the place: lights, drills, saws, screw guns, and welders; but we have to remember that with the convenience of electric power also come very real hazards. Today we will discuss electric shock which is probably the most obvious electrical hazard, but is also the most likely to cause injury.

Let's consider the electrical system in general. The goal is to provide you with power while preventing you from being electrocuted. All wiring which is not part of the structure's permanent electrical system must be protected by either Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) or an assured equipment grounding conductor program. Both of these options help protect you from ground-fault electrocution hazards. If GFCIs are used they must be installed on all 120 volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles. Receptacles on **some** smaller generators are exempt under certain conditions. An assured equipment grounding conductor program may be used to provide ground-fault protection in the absence of, or as a compliment to, GFCIs. An assured equipment grounding conductor program involves a written program specification, regular testing, and documentation of test results.

There are many other shocking situations which you can prevent. Pay attention to where power and extension cords are placed, even if you didn't put them there. Don't run extension cords across aisles or driveways; they create tripping hazards and can be damaged by foot or vehicle traffic. Double insulated tools don't require a ground conductor, the design of the housing protects you; but a damaged housing may not be able to provide that protection. Be sure the housings on all tools are in good repair. Remember that special precautions must be taken when using electricity in wet areas or where there are fire or explosion hazards.

Exposed conductors also present electrocution hazards. Until you have locked out the circuits, treat exposed wires in power panels, receptacles, junction boxes, etc. as though they are energized. Always follow your employer's lockout/tagout procedures.

Keep electricity under control. Follow the manufacturers' instructions for all of your tools. Don't let your carelessness result in injury or death to you, your fellow workers, or members of the public.

SAFETY REMINDER

Never break off a ground prong to fit a plug into an ungrounded receptacle.

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

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 38 Vol. 21 Week of 9/21/15

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

CONCRETE HAZARDS

The importance of concrete as a building material is very apparent; it is used in almost every type of construction. Walls, footings, foundations, sidewalks, driveways, swimming pools, and slabs are just a few places that concrete is used. Well-trained supervisors, weekly safety meetings, and careful construction workers can help eliminate concrete accidents.

From the very beginning when forms are being placed, all the way through to final finishing steps like grinding and sandblasting, personal protective equipment is a must. Hard hats, and eye, face, skin, and knee protection will help you work safely with concrete. Concrete is a very alkaline material and can cause both skin dehydration and chemical burns; therefore, skin protection is a necessity. Gloves should be worn during most finishing operations. Remember to protect your arms and legs in addition to your hands.

Formwork must be inspected before concrete placement begins to ensure that it complies with the approved design specifications. Forms should be plumb in both directions. All protruding reinforcing steel, onto and into which employees could fall, must be guarded to eliminate the hazard of impalement.

Employees are not permitted to ride concrete buckets. No one is permitted to work under concrete buckets while they are being raised or lowered. To whatever extent feasible, elevated concrete buckets must be routed so that they don't travel over workers, or so that they travel over the fewest number of workers possible.

Unsafe concrete vibrators can cause injuries. Prior to use, check electric-powered vibrators for grounding conductors. If you find the ground prong broken off, do not use the vibrator; tag it defective and let your supervisor know. If you are the vibrator operator during a concrete pour, wear eye protection since frequent splashes can occur when inserting vibrators in wet or high slump concrete.

Remember that fall protection is required anytime you are working six feet or more above the ground. Guardrails are one of the best means of protection. If you can't work behind a guardrail, use a personal fall arrest system.

There are many hazards associated with concrete work. You can abate these hazards and prevent injuries by making the effort to work safely. Plan your work, especially form placement and concrete lifts, and wear your PPE.

SAFETY REMINDER

Watch out for pinch points between discharge chutes on concrete trucks. If you're not careful, you can lose a finger in a split second.

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

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423 815-464-0200 No. 39 Vol. 21 Week of 9/28/15

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

DRUGS & ALCOHOL

Only 5% of the world's population resides in the U.S., but Americans consume more than 60% of the world's illicit drugs. Greater than 65% of all workplace injuries are related to on-the-job drug or alcohol use. A substance abusing employee files five times as many workers' compensation claims than the average employee that doesn't use illicit drugs or alcohol on the job. The U.S. Government estimates that $10,000 per claimant is paid out in workers' compensation dollars. Let's not forget about prescription drugs; millions of Americans are addicted to them.

Accident rates in the construction industry are high. To avoid injury or death you must stay alert, but you can't be alert and responsive if you're on drugs or alcohol. Do you know what drug has the highest abuse rate in the United States? It isn't crack or heroin, or even marijuana. It's alcohol! An estimated 15.1 million Americans currently abuse alcohol — don't be one of them. Alcohol does **not** increase physical or mental skills; it **does** increase confidence and decrease judgment. It gives you a false sense of security, making you feel perfectly normal, when in fact your vision, hearing, depth perception, reaction time, and sense of speed are severely distorted. In addition, the effect on your health over the long term can be devastating, if not fatal.

Marijuana is often considered a low-risk, or entry level drug; but it is still very dangerous. More than 5 million Americans use marijuana regularly. It contains over 400 chemicals — the one that produces the high is called THC. In recent years the percentage of THC has greatly increased due to modern cultivation, making this drug much stronger and more dangerous than ever before. A recent study of long term marijuana users revealed that brain shrinkage had occurred in everyone tested. On a construction site, high employees lead to high injury rates.

Alcohol and drugs have no place on a construction site. They lead to decreased quality and reduced efficiency and productivity. Avoiding accidents is tough enough when your head is on straight. If you have a substance abuse problem, or have a friend that does, get help. Your employer may have a program in place to assist you, or call the Substance Abuse Hotline at 1-800-662-HELP. You can make the difference, in your own life or the life of a friend. Don't jeopardize your own safety, or that of others, by abusing alcohol or drugs before, during, or after working hours.

SAFETY REMINDER

School is back in session.
Watch out for children boarding and exiting school buses, and for those walking to and from school.

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 _____