



Maine Chapter

Company _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

Weekly Tool Box Talk: **OSHA HAZCOM LABELING**

OSHA standards (under the HazCom law) require all jobsite containers to be clearly marked/labeled as to their specific contents. Manufacturers, importers, and distributors must label all containers of hazardous chemicals.

If the label comes off then the contractor is obliged to mark the primary content (for example: GASOLINE, KEROSENE, HYDRAULIC FLUID, SOLVENT, MASTIC, etc.).

All containers must have some type of lid/top/closure apparatus to keep the contents from spilling or leaking out. If a container is not properly sealed with an air-tight cover, then the caustic contents can seep out and workers can be exposed to the chemicals.

Even if the container is clearly marked as to its contents, and the cover is on tight, this same OSHA standard provides guidelines for proper "storage" of containers with chemical contents. Because many chemicals have a low threshold for explosion, such chemicals must be stored in an area where they will not be subject to open flames, or heat-producing equipment (steam turbines, auto/truck engines, propane tanks, welding torches, generators, etc.).

Note, too, that when personal protective equipment (such as dust masks, air purifying respirators, lanyards, safety glasses, safety vests, etc.) are exposed to caustic/chemical agents, this contamination can spread to the user. Therefore, housekeeping is important to prevent worker exposure to such hazards.

Employers should check all containers when they arrive to make sure they're labeled. The original labels must stay on the containers and be readable as long as the containers are used (on the jobsite, in trucks and vehicles, in storage, etc.). Here is a short list of what is on a typical label:

- Identity of chemical
- Name and address of manufacturer
- Storage and handling procedures
- Protective clothing recommendations
- Phone number of manufacturer

OSHA's Hazardous Communication Standard (Right-to-Know Law) is for your protection. Be familiar with these guidelines and be sure to ask your supervisors about those areas that are unclear.

Safety Recommendations: _____

Job Specific Topics: _____

M.S.D.S. Reviewed: _____

Attended By: _____
