



Company _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

Weekly Tool Box Talk: **Chemicals**

Chemicals are all around us - in the food we eat, the clothes we wear, in the products we use everyday. Chemicals can help us live better lives, but if we don't understand about the chemicals we use, they can harm us.

The first and most important step to chemical safety is to stop and read the label! All the basic information you need to know is found on the label. It will tell you the name of the basic substance, what types of hazards there are, what it will do, what chemicals can't be mixed with this particular substance, and any emergency medical information you'll need to know. You'll also learn how to properly store, handle, and dispose of the material. Once you've read the label you'll be able to identify the type of chemical and the proper instructions required for this chemical.

Basically, there are four types of chemicals:

1. Toxic agents: These are chemicals that are poisonous to you, and can act upon the body very rapidly. Hydrogen sulfide and cyanide are examples of toxic agents.
2. Corrosives: This type of chemical is usually an irritant. Corrosives can damage your body by burning, scalding or inflaming body tissues. Examples of corrosives are chlorine, hydrochloric acid, of course, battery acid.
3. Flammables: Flammables are the chemicals that burn readily. They may explode or burn if sparks, flames or other ignition sources are present. Examples are gasoline, benzene and ethyl ether.
4. Reactives: Reactive chemicals are those that require stability and careful handling. Some of them can explode or react violently if the container is dropped or hit. Other reactives may react violently if mixed improperly with other substances. Nitroglycerine is an example of a reactive chemical.

No matter what type of chemicals you're using, you need to be aware of the ways that chemicals may affect you. If you're not properly protected, you may be exposed to chemical hazards. When in doubt, read the MSDS.

Safety Recommendations: _____

Job Specific Topics: _____

M.S.D.S. Reviewed: _____

Attended By: _____

