



Toolbox Talk

Working with Hazardous Materials

What are hazardous materials and what are the dangers they represent?

(Discuss any of the types of hazardous materials listed below that are used in your area.)

- Hazardous liquids (caustics or acids) — danger of burns
- Hazardous gases — danger of explosion and/or toxic effect
- Inorganic dusts (mineral dusts such as asbestos, silica, etc.) — danger of inhalation
- Metals, metalloids and their compounds (lead, mercury, arsenic, etc.) — danger of toxic effect
- Organic dusts (dusts produced by grain, wood, cotton, etc.) — danger of explosion
- Organic solvents — hazard of absorption, inhalation or ingestion, effects of each dependent upon toxicity, vapor pressure and use
- Pesticides — danger of poisoning through ingestion or inhalation

Review MSDSs of chemicals being used

- Exposure issues
- Methods of exposure
- PPE needed
- Potential health issues
- Potential environmental and flammability issues

Safe work practices when using these chemicals

- Discuss specific procedures according to your chemical exposures
 - Periodic air sampling
 - PPE
 - Hand washing, clothes and no smoking
- Proper labeling — all containers should be labeled

