

SAFETY MEETING TOPIC

This form shall be completed and kept on file

Job Name _____ Location _____ Job No. _____
Meeting Leader _____ Title _____
Date Held _____ Place _____ Time _____
Subject of Meeting CONTROLLING LEAD EXPOSURE SAFETY TALK

HOUSEKEEPING

Some of the work you do may create lead dust, or release dust that has settled onto a work surface. All surfaces must be kept as free as practical of accumulations of lead dust. Vacuuming with special equipment is the best method. Never use compressed air to clean these areas unless it is used with a ventilation system designed to contain the lead dust. Other methods that should not be used are dry or wet sweeping, shoveling, or brushing, unless vacuuming or other methods have been tried and do not work. Vacuums must have a special filter called high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter. The vacuum should be emptied in a way which minimizes re-entry of lead into the work place.

HYGIENE FACILITIES AND PRACTICES

The standard requires hand washing facilities, changing areas and separate eating areas. Showers must also be provided, where possible. These facilities must be used properly. You should eat and drink only in designated eating areas, away from the contaminated locations. Surface dust on clothing should be removed by vacuuming, using a downdraft booth or some other safe method. Before eating, using cosmetics or chewing tobacco be sure to wash your hands and face. Street clothing and protective work clothing must be kept in the separate storage facilities to avoid cross-contamination. Never wear protective clothing or equipment home. Exposure can be extended to your family. Lead from clothing can accumulate in household items, car seats, etc.

PROTECTIVE WORK CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

If you are exposed to lead above the PEL (Permissible Exposure Limit) or to lead compounds such as lead arsenate or lead azide, which can cause skin and eye irritation, you must be protected. Clean and dry work clothing must be provided weekly. If exposures exceed 200 ug/m³, work clothing must be provided daily. Appropriate protective work clothing and equipment can include coveralls or similar full-body work clothing, gloves, hats, shoes or disposable shoe coverlets, and face shields or vented goggles. Your employer is required to provide all such equipment at no cost to you. In addition, repairs and replacements, as well as cleaning, laundering or disposal of clothing and equipment is handled by your employer.

Good work practices must be followed. These procedures should be observed prior to beginning work:

1. Change into work clothing and shoe covers in the clean section of the designated changing areas;

2. Use work garments or appropriate protective gear, including respirators before entering the work area; and
3. Store any clothing not worn under protective clothing in the designated changing area.

You should follow these procedures upon leaving the work area:

1. HEPA vacuum heavily contaminated protective work clothing while it is still being worn. At no time may lead be removed from protective clothing by any means which result in uncontrolled dispersal of lead into the air;
2. Remove shoe covers and leave them in the work area;
3. Remove protective clothing and gear in the dirty area of the designated changing area. Remove protective coveralls by carefully rolling down the garment to reduce exposure to dust;
4. Remove respirators last; and
5. Wash hands and face.

In addition, you should follow these procedures upon finishing work for the day:

1. Where applicable, place disposal coveralls and shoe covers with abatement waste;
2. Contaminated clothing which is to be cleaned, laundered or disposed of must be placed in closed containers in the changing room;
3. Clean protective gear, including respirators, according to standard procedures; and
4. Wash hands and face again. If showers are available, take a shower and wash hair. If shower facilities are not available, shower immediately at home and wash hair.

The requirements for dealing with lead exposure are very demanding, but the threat is real. You will not notice any significant health problems from low to medium lead exposure until the damage has been done. Therefore, do not ignore the safety measures identified in the lead standard.