SAFETY SERVICES COMPANY

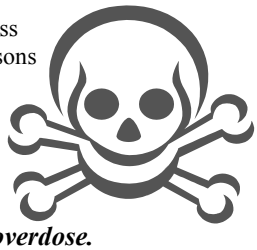
Tailgate/Toolbox Safety Training

Safety Services Company-Safety Meeting Division, PO Box 6408 Yuma, AZ 85366-6408 Toll Free (866) 204-4786

Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 90: First Aid for Poisoning



Introduction: Although episodes of poisoning on the job are unusual, they do happen. Poisons are substances that cause illness or death when ingested or absorbed. Even relatively small amounts disrupt the normal metabolic functioning of the body. Poisons can be in the form of a liquid, solid or gas and may enter the body by various routes; they can be swallowed, inhaled, absorbed through the skin, or injected under the skin (as in insect stings or snake bites). Various digestive and metabolic disorders can also cause the build-up of poisons. Even non-toxic substances taken in large quantities such as aspirin, vitamins, or mineral supplements may lead to poisoning if not used carefully.

The most common types of poisoning at work are caused by breathing poisonous smoke, vapors, or fumes, inadvertently eating or drinking something toxic, being bitten by poisonous snakes or insects, or some form of overdose.

Inhaled poisonous fumes or vapors can cause breathing difficulties, unconsciousness, and even death. Noxious gases are usually encountered when performing welding, torch, or other hot operations. Spraying processes using urethanes, lacquers, varnishes, and some paints can generate hazardous atmospheres that are poisonous and require breathing protection. Hot-roof tar kettles produce toxic fumes both from the burners and from the tar that is being heated. Carbon monoxide (CO) is one of the more common forms of poison gas and is produced by fuel-burning power equipment such as generators and compressors. Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless, and tasteless and potentially lethal. Symptoms of CO poisoning include migraine headache across the brow and temples, nausea, listlessness, disorientation, and numbness of the lips and tongue. If it is suspected that a person has succumbed to CO poisoning, they must be quickly removed from where they were found and taken immediately to an area where fresh air is available.

Biological poisoning caused by everyday routines can sometimes cause severe distress. On occasion, contaminated water sources turn up on a jobsite. These sources can be a dirty water cooler, an old nasty hose, or possibly may originate from a newly laid water line. Always ensure that your drinking water supply is clean, fresh, and safe. Avoid sharing drinking cups or using community drinking containers.

Special precautions must also be taken with food. If you are packing a lunch, make certain you keep it in a cool place. Mayonnaise, for example, can turn toxic in only a few hours if not kept cool. This is true of many other foods (especially those which contain egg, milk, and meat products). Food poisoning in the form of Botulism or Ptomaine is not a pleasant experience and is most prevalent during hot summer months. Food poisoning is caused by ingesting food that contains toxic substances produced by bacteria. These toxins are some of the most potent poisons known and can severely damage nerves and muscles (because these toxins cause nerve damage, they're called neurotoxins). Other food borne toxins include Staphylococcal, Hemorrhagic colitis (caused by E. coli), and Clostridium perfringens. Even minute amounts of these toxins entering the body by ingestion, inhalation, or absorption through the eye or a break in the skin can cause serious illness. If it is apparent the person is acutely affected, they should be taken to the hospital immediately.

Non-prescription, over-the-counter medications are easily over-used. Acetaminophen (Tylenol), aspirin, cold remedies, and allergy relief capsules can over-accumulate in the body and easily turn toxic if used excessively during a strenuous workday. Be careful when using any medication on the job. Read the warnings and limitations pertaining to each medication (especially when operating equipment and machinery).

If the poisoning victim is not breathing, and you are properly trained, initiate Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) without delay. If the victim is unconscious but breathing, place him or her in the recovery position (on their side). Immediately contact Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the local Poison Control Center and proceed as directed. A life may depend on it so ***DO EXACTLY AS INSTRUCTED!***

Conclusion: There are many ways that a person can be unintentionally poisoned on a jobsite. Many workplace processes can generate toxic substances or fumes that under certain circumstances can easily become lethal; especially the exhaust from gas-burning equipment that can drift into enclosed spaces. Learn to recognize the potential hazards created during workday operations and be aware of poisonous substances. Follow these guidelines for a safer workplace.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

_____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Material Safety Data Sheets Reviewed: _____ (Name of Chemical)

Employee Signatures: ***(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)***

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Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

The first aid information provided is intended to be general in nature and is based upon the "best available" guidelines. No results either general or specific are represented or guaranteed. These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.