



MAFES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips: Safe Handling of Hazardous Materials

Throughout our Research stations, we have a core of employees who are familiar with handling hazardous materials. So, this letter is for the benefit of a refresher for you experienced folks and a primer for new employees who may not have received any training or instruction on handling hazardous materials.

I would hope that Superintendents and Facility Coordinators would use this with the 11 rules for safe handling of hazardous materials to their advantage and discuss with their people. You probably will have more safety tips on handling hazardous materials than I will have here, so I would hope that you will use those and the ones that we shall discuss in this newsletter to better equip your employees in their handling of hazardous materials.

- ✓ Follow all established procedures and do the job as you have been shown or trained.
- ✓ Be cautious and plan ahead. Think ahead and anticipate things that might go wrong- pay close attention to what you are doing as you go about your work.
- ✓ Always use the required protective personal equipment (PPE)- inspect it carefully before you use it to be sure it is safe to use. Replace worn out or defective items. Report it to your supervisor and also report any pieces of PPE that you don't have to cover yourself on a job.
- ✓ Make sure that all containers are properly labeled and that the material is in the proper container. Do not use any chemical that is not labeled or isn't labeled properly. Report any damaged containers or illegible labels to your supervisor.

- ✓ Always read the labels and the material safety data sheet (MSDS) before using any material to make sure you understand hazards and precautions.
- ✓ Use all materials for their intended use. For example, don't use a solvent to clean your hands nor gasoline to clean your tools.
- ✓ Refrain from eating or drinking while working with any materials or chemicals. Females, if your hands are contaminated don't use cosmetics or handle contact lenses. Men, the same advice is aimed at you as well, except you won't be concerned with cosmetics.
- ✓ Read the labels and refer to the MSDS to identify the properties and hazards of chemical products and materials.
- ✓ Store all materials properly, separate those that are not compatible and store them in well ventilated, cool dry areas.
- ✓ Keep your work areas and yourself clean. After you have completed handling materials or chemicals, wash thoroughly with soap and water. Be sure to check and clean the work area as needed on every shift to be sure that there is no contamination.
- ✓ Make sure that all employees are familiar with emergency procedures, which includes evacuation procedures, emergency reporting procedures and the procedures for handling fires and spills. It also means knowing what to do in case of an accident to a fellow employee and the medical emergency procedure to use where chemicals are involved.

**TAKE CARE WORKING WITH
CHEMICAL BATHS
OR
YOU MAY END UP TAKING A
SHOWER!!**

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