



Asphalt Fumes

Asphalt is a black or brown, semi-solid or liquid mixture used for buildings, roofing, roads, and rubber. It can be hazardous to human health, as cited by NIOSH, NFPA, and ACGIH (American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists). Exposure to asphalt must be evaluated on a regular basis. OSHA does not have any specific standard for asphalt fumes, but it should be addressed by the construction industries.

Many workers are exposed to asphalt fumes used for road paving, siding, roofing, and concrete work. Exposure to fumes can cause eye irritation, throat irritation, skin rash, cough, headache, shortness of breath, and dizziness. Asphalt exposure can also have chronic health effects in addition to these acute effects. For example, long term exposure can cause change in skin pigmentation.



Protection Tips:

- Wash your hands with soap before leaving work sites or eating.
- Have your lunch away from the work area.
- Change your work clothes before going home.
- Avoid skin contact.
- Wear protective clothing.
- Use eye protection as well as gloves.
- All clothing and gloves must be made from an appropriate protective material.
- All PPE must be clean and available each day.
- If using respirators, employees must undergo a fit test, medical test, and training on the use of respirators.
- Respirators must meet OSHA requirements.
- Use safe equipment.
- Try to maintain a safe temperature.
- Train employees on the hazards of asphalt exposure and prevention methods.
- Proper use of PPE must also be included in training.

Work Site Review: Hazards/Safety Suggestions

Company Name: _____ Work Site Location: _____

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

Employee Signatures: (continue on back of sheet if necessary)

(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)

Manager/Supervisor's Signature: _____

Disclaimer: The information and suggestions contained in these safety talks are believed to be reliable. However, the authors of the topics and the owners of this web site accept no legal responsibility for the correctness, sufficiency, or completeness of such information or suggestions contained within these topics. These guidelines do not super cede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations



Chemical Exposure

Manufacturing and industrial processes create hazardous waste. Chemical hazardous substances can be released into the environment, resulting in exposure to people. Exposure can be direct or indirect through other substances containing hazardous chemicals.

Chemicals can enter the environment from different sources like tanks, drums, factories, chemical plants, incinerators, and landfills. Exposure pathways can include breathing, inhaling, skin contact, and ingestion. The kinds of chemicals, pathway, duration, dose, and frequency of chemical exposure are important to evaluate health effects.

OSHA has set Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL) to protect the safety of employees exposed to hazardous chemical substances. Human susceptibility to exposure can be affected by age, gender, genetics, pregnancy, or other health conditions. Low percentage exposure can cause eye, nose, throat, chest, and skin burning. It can also cause headache, sweating, and blurred vision.

A large dose chemical exposure may cause breathing difficulties, coughing, and fainting. Chemical manufacturers must have detailed hazard information available for all chemicals on Safety Data Sheets.

Your employer should conduct chemical safety training, covering emergency procedures, first aid, and record keeping. Review and update the safety program annually.

Common protection measures include:

- Leave the area if you experience any exposure symptoms.
- If you breathe in a chemical move to fresh air.
- In case a liquid chemical gets on your clothing or skin, remove your clothes and wash your skin immediately.
- If a chemical liquid or gas gets in your eyes flush your eyes with water.
- If you are feeling sick seek medical care immediately.
- Avoid touching a contaminated person skin or clothing.

Discussion Questions

1. Has anyone ever been involved in a Chemical Exposure?
2. If so, what was it like?
3. Was anyone seriously injured?



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Train. Protect. Prevent.

Disaster Preparedness

Disasters can happen anywhere and anytime. They happen suddenly and often bring great damage, loss, destruction, or failure. Most disasters are natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, storms, and tornadoes. Winter storms and hurricanes can be predicted and prepared for, but some disasters, such as tornadoes or earthquakes, happen with no warning.

Humans can also cause disasters. Disaster preparedness is intended to prepare and reduce or prevent the effects of disasters. According to FEMA (Federal Emergency management Agency), disaster preparedness is a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action to prevent and identify hazards, conduct assessments, and reduce potential loss of life and property damage.

Disasters can have a major effect on public health and safety. Preparing in advance for emergencies or disasters is a crucial safety measure. In times of disaster, local relief workers often cannot immediately reach and help all those affected. Preparing ahead can be both helpful and life-saving in these situations.

Suggested Basic Disaster Supplies:

- Gallon of water per person.
- First aid kit.
- Food for at least three days (Along with a manual can opener).
- Battery powered radio with extra batteries.
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Garbage bags
- Wrench or pliers to turn off the utilities.
- Local map and charged cell phone.
- Some cash.
- Infant formula and diapers.
- Pet food.
- Sleeping bag.
- Fire extinguisher and matches (in a waterproof container).
- Personal hygiene materials.
- Paper and pencil.
- Paper cups, plates, and towels.
- Books, games, puzzles, or other activities for kids.
- Identification of facilities and transportation route of hazardous materials.
- Outline of evacuation plan and emergency procedures.



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Fallen Power Lines

Electrical power lines can fall due to car accidents, windstorms, pole failure, etc. Employees who are not properly trained in working with electrical lines should never touch fallen lines by hand or with any tools. Your continued personal commitment to safety is the best way to avoid injuries from power lines at any job or any time.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has specific standards for employee workplaces. OSHA also has electrical safety standards for the construction industry, long shoring, and shipyards.



General Electrical Protection:

- If a wire is down DO NOT TOUCH IT.
- Never touch fallen power lines Call a responsible electric utility company to report fallen lines.
- Never operate electrical equipment if you are in the water.
 - If you are working in a damp area, make sure all electrical cords are in good condition.
 - Use a ground-fault circuit interpreter.
- Never fix electrical cords or repair any electrical tools unless you are authorized.
- If any electrical equipment is wet call a qualified person to inspect it before working with it.
- Before moving, cleaning, or handling long objects at heights inspect the area for any overhead wire.
- Always be cautious if you work near electricity.
- Use lockout/tagout procedure properly and keep a safe distance from energized parts. Underground utilities must be marked before digging the area to avoid contact.
- OSHA regulations require that crane and derrick operators stay a minimum of 20 feet away from overhead power lines.
- A safety watch person must be near heavy equipment during operation time near high voltage lines.
- Do not touch anything or anyone in contact with fallen power lines or other equipment.
- Keep children and pets away from fallen electrical lines.
- Do not drive over fallen power lines.
- Call 911 if a power line falls.

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