

Chemical Hazard Safety Topic

This section addresses handling of chemical spills and general safety procedures in the workplace.

The use of chemicals in the workplace is fairly common today- even in non- industrial sites. Usage presents a variety of hazards such as physical, health, fire, explosion, or reactivity hazards. Chemicals that make skin or eye contact or are inhaled or swallowed can cause potentially serious health problems. OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard has set regulations and limits for exposure to individual hazardous chemicals.

Chemicals vary in hazards and warrant different protections. To reduce hazards, always read chemical labels and MSDS reports, follow directions, as well as educate employees on correct safety handling.

General Safety Procedures

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for chemicals and equipment
- Don't take shortcuts on any job
- Check containers regularly for leaks and keep them closed when not in use
- Report all spills immediately'
- Make sure your work areas are ventilated
- Wear and inspect the protective clothing recommended by the MSDS
- Wash thoroughly before eating, drinking, or
- Clean tools, equipment, and clothing that were exposed to hazardous chemicals prior to reuse
- Dispose of all contaminated materials (including clothing)

Handling Chemical Spills

Major spills require specially trained cleanup crew, for minor spills one should take the following precautions:

- Know the identity of the chemical
- The MSDS indicates only minor hazards
- The spill is less than about 1 gallon
- A neutralization or absorption spill kit is
- Wear the necessary personal protective
- Properly dispose of the material