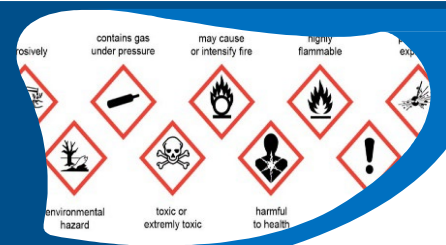


Toolbox Talk Hazardous Substances



What?

- Thousands of substances are used every day at work some of which can be hazardous to health
- Normal routes of entry to the body are ingestion, inhalation, injection and absorption through the skin
- Depending on the substance, and degree of exposure the effect can be mild at one end of the scale to very serious at the other end such as cancer
- Effects can also be acute (short term) or chronic (long term)
- Manufacturers / suppliers of hazardous substances have a legal obligation to provide information about the substance, it's correct use and the measures which must be applied to control the risk



Why?

- Every year thousands of workers are made ill when using hazardous substances resulting in respiratory problems, skin conditions and more long term diseases
- The effects can be temporary or in more severe cases permanent
- It is important to understand the risks by reading the instructions for use and the safety data sheet and then implementing the recommended precautions



Do



- ✓ Use PPE or RPE where recommended
- ✓ Read the manufacturer's instructions and implement the stipulated precautions
- ✓ Use in an adequately ventilated area
- ✓ Make sure lids, bungs or caps are replaced immediately after use
- ✓ Wash hands after use
- ✓ Keep in correct storage area
- ✓ Report any spillage or leaks immediately
- ✓ Use local exhaust ventilation where provided
- ✓ Dispose of substances correctly
- ✓ Follow advice in safety data sheets and risk assessments

Don't



- ✗ Forget to use suitable PPE
- ✗ Sniff containers
- ✗ Put harmful products in unmarked containers
- ✗ Store incompatible substances together
- ✗ Mix substances together unless it is safe to do so
- ✗ Put harmful substances down drains, sinks, etc.
- ✗ Burn old containers
- ✗ Smoke or eat while using hazardous substances – wash your hands before doing so