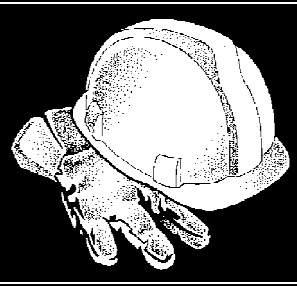
TRAINING GUIDE

PAINTS & SOLVENTS



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Before you begin the meeting...

☐ *Does this topic relate to the work the crew is doing? If not, choose another topic.*

☐ *Has the crew completed basic Hazard Communication training? It will help them understand this topic.*

☐ *Did you read this Training Guide and fill in the blanks where the* ✎ *appears? (To find the information you need, look over the Safety Walkaround Checklist for this topic.)*

☐ *Did you bring labeled containers and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for a few of the paints and solvents used on the site?*

Begin: Did you know that construction workers have been pulled over for drunk driving when they really haven't been drinking at all? It can happen when they are intoxicated from paints or solvents on the job.

Everyone knows that some paints and solvents are dangerous because they are highly flammable, but you may not realize how dangerous it can be to breathe their vapors. Just like alcohol, paint or solvent vapors can make you lose your coordination and cause accidents. Over a period of time, they can also destroy your liver and other body organs.

You or a crew member may want to add a personal story about paints or solvents.

Next, discuss with the crew what hazardous paint or solvent products are used at this particular job site, and where:

✎ _____

_____

ASK THE CREW THESE QUESTIONS:

After each question, give the crew time to suggest possible answers. Use the information following each question to add points that no one mentions.

1. What symptoms might warn you that you've had too much exposure to paint or solvent vapors?

- Dizziness
- Lack of coordination
- A light-headed feeling
- Trouble concentrating

2. If you don't have these warning signs, does it mean that there's no problem?

- No. With some paints and solvents, even a small exposure over a long period of time can permanently damage your **liver**, **kidneys**, and **nervous system** (including the brain).
- If your exposure is high enough (such as in a confined space), some paint and solvent vapors may cause immediate **coma** or **death**.
- Paints, even some used today, may contain **lead**. Lead is highly toxic and can cause anemia, kidney damage, brain damage, and reproductive problems. *(Lead is covered in more detail in a separate Training Guide.)*

3. Are vapors the only health hazard of paints and solvents?

- No. Some chemicals can also damage the **skin**. Your skin may become dry and cracked, or you may get a rash or burn. Other chemicals can go right through the skin and get into your bloodstream. Certain chemicals do both.

4. Some products are more hazardous than others. How can you find out what specific chemicals are in a product, and what their effects might be?

- **Don't open the container** until you've found out what's in the product and what the hazards may be.
- Check the **label**. You may find a list of ingredients, a safety warning, or both. All containers must be labeled, or a labeled container must be in the immediate area.
- Read the **Material Safety Data Sheet** (MSDS) for the product. MSDSs are required by law, and everyone working on the site has a right to see them.

(MSDSs are covered in more detail during basic Hazard Communication training, which everyone on the crew should already have completed.)

5. What can the MSDS tell you about a product?

- The **hazardous ingredients** in the product, and the **safe exposure level** for each one. Cal/OSHA has set **permissible exposure limits** (PELs) for many hazardous chemicals. The company has to keep your exposure below these limits.
- The **flammability** of the product, and fire prevention measures you need to take.
- What kinds of **personal protective equipment** you need (like a respirator or gloves).
- The **volatility** of the product (the likelihood that vapors will get in the air).
- How to **store** the product safely. For example, some products should be stored away from heat, light, or water. Some should never be stored near other products with which they could have a chemical reaction. (These are called **incompatible** chemicals.)
- How to **dispose** of the product safely. For example, some products should never be dumped into the drain or sewer.

On this job, you can get MSDSs from-

Give the name and location of the person to see: _____

Let's look at the labels and MSDSs for some products we use on this job.

Show the crew the sample product containers and MSDSs you brought to the meeting. Explain them briefly.

_____

6. What are some ways to protect yourself from toxic paints and solvents?

- Use a **safer product** if possible. Some products are much less hazardous than others.
- Work in a **well-ventilated** area if you can. A fan or open door may not be enough. If you're working outdoors, try to stay **upwind** from paint and solvent vapors.
- **Stop** what you're doing if you notice symptoms. You may need to change the way you're doing the work, or wear protective equipment (like a respirator or gloves).
- Use a **respirator**. If you need one, we must provide the right type of respirator, make sure it fits, teach you how to use it, and give you a physical to make sure you're able to wear it safely. *(Respirators are covered in more detail in a separate Training Guide.)*

We ☐ will or ☐ will not require respirators on this job.

If required, respirators are available at: _____

- Keep paints and solvents off your **skin** and out of your **eyes**. If necessary, wear gloves and goggles. If you do get paints or solvents in your eyes, flush with water for 15 minutes. Never wash your hands or clothing with hazardous solvents.
- **Don't eat, drink, or smoke** on the job. Anything you put in your mouth could have been contaminated by chemicals. Wash up first.

7. How do you prevent fires and explosions when working with flammable liquids?

- Read the **label** and **MSDS** to find out what special precautions to take.
- **Don't smoke**.
- **Avoid heat and sparks**—for example, from sparking power tools.
- Keep flammable liquids away from **rags** and other materials that might ignite.
- **Bond and ground** the containers when you transfer flammable liquids.
- **Store** flammables in tightly closed, approved containers or metal storage cabinets.
- Keep **fire extinguishers** readily available, and make sure they are the right type. Different fire extinguishers are needed for different kinds of fires.

CAL/OSHA REGULATIONS

Explain: Most of the safety measures we've talked about are required by Cal/OSHA. We have to take these precautions—it's the law. I have a Checklist of the Cal/OSHA regulations on paints and solvents. If you'd like to know more, see me after the meeting.

COMPANY RULES

(Only if applicable.) Besides the Cal/OSHA regulations, we have some additional company rules about paints and solvents.

Discuss company rules: _____

_____

COMMENTS FROM THE CREW

Ask: **Do you have any other concerns about paints and solvents? Do you see any problems on our job?** *(Let the steward answer first, if there is one.)*

What about other jobs you've worked on? Have you had any experience with paints and solvents that might help us work safer on this job?

GENERAL SAFETY DISCUSSION

This is a time to discuss all safety concerns, not just today's topic. Keep your notes on this page before, during, and after the safety meeting.

Are you aware of any hazards from other crews? *Point out any hazards other crews are creating that this crew should know about. Tell the crew what you intend to do about those hazards.*

Do we have any old business? *Discuss past issues/problems. Report progress of investigations and action taken.*

Any new business? Any accidents/near misses/complaints? *Discuss accidents, near misses, and complaints that have happened since the last safety meeting. Also recognize the safety contributions made by members of the crew.*

Please remember, we want to hear from you about *any* health and safety issues that come up. If we don't know about problems, we can't take action to fix them.

To complete the training session:

- ☐ *Circulate Sign-Off Form.*
- ☐ *Assign one or more crew member(s) to help with next safety meeting.*
- ☐ *Refer action items for follow-up. (Use the sample **Hazard Report Form** in the Reference Section of this binder, or your company's own form.)*

SIGN-OFF FORM
PAINTS & SOLVENTS

Date Presented: _____ By: _____

Project Name/No.: _____ Location: _____

NAMES OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED THIS SAFETY MEETING

PRINTED NAME	*SIGNATURE*