This is the last Safety Talk on Colby’s HazCom program. The intent of this Safety Talk is to familiarize yourself with basic chemical hazards and the terminology found in every workplace. Finally, we will discuss some of the specific chemical hazards you have to contend with and protect yourself from as part of your job.

**Examples of Health Hazards:**
- Corrosives - cause tissue damage and burns on contact with the skin and eyes
- Irritants - cause intense redness or swelling of the skin or eyes on contact but with no permanent tissue damage
- Sensitizers - cause an allergic skin or lung reaction
- Carcinogens - may cause cancer
- Mutagens - may cause mutations or birth defects
- Target Organ Toxicants - impacts specific organ(s)
- Aspirants - enter the lungs and cause damage
- Asphyxiants - cause suffocation

**Examples of Physical Hazards:**
- Explosives - react violently
- Flammable gases, solids, and liquids - obvious fire hazards
- Oxidizing liquids, solids and gases - adds to combustion
- Gases under pressure - may react violently is rapidly released
- Pyrophoric liquids or solids - spontaneously combust
- Substances that react with water emit flammable gases
- Organic peroxides - can act as an oxidizer in a fire
- Substances corrosive to metal

**Primary Routes of Exposure:**
- Ingestion
- Skin Contact
- Absorption through the skin
- Inhalation (breathing)
Common Chemicals used by the Painters and Carpenters:

- Latex paint
- Solvent based wood treatments
- Thinners and cleaning solvents
- Adhesives and glues
- Various aerosols
- Lubricating oils, grease
- Spray paints
- Plaster, drywall mud, grout, and cement
- More, more, more?

Primary Hazards Related to these Products

Flammability: Many of the products used by Carpenters and Painters are solvent based with low flashpoints that are easily ignited if used around an ignition source, especially in confined areas. Always be aware of the flammability of the materials you are using make sure you have good ventilation and that there are no ignition sources (hotwork).

Toxicity: Cleaning solvents and thinners can be very toxic. Review the MSDS/SDS if you are concerned and always wear resistant gloves and wash your hands.

Eye Irritants: All of these products are considered eye irritants. If you get these products in your eyes, flush with water for 15 minutes and tell your supervisor to arrange for additional medical treatment if needed.

Skin Irritants: Long term contact with many of these products can lead to skin irritation. Thinners and solvents will remove fat from your skin, and concrete related products will also cause dermatitis. Wear gloves and wash your hands frequently to prevent this.
Review / Discussion Questions:

1. Were any common products not included? What are some of the hazards of these products?
2. What do you think is the primary route of chemical exposure for painters and carpenters?
3. In general, what in your opinion is the most hazardous chemical painters and carpenters frequently work with? Why?

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Questions, concerns or comments contact the EHS Director at extension 5504.