

Environmental, Health and Safety News

September 2010

We're Proud of Our Work



imi
Irving Materials, Inc.

What is Your Chemical Hazard IQ?

Your Safety and Health, Yet Again;

Make it #1 in 2010

September

Something to Think About

A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

- Proverbs 25:11

We have not reviewed our Hazard Communication Program in this forum for some time. When was the last time that you encountered a new chemical in the work place and reviewed the MSDS on the proper handling of the product? Let's review the important points.

The purpose of a *Hazard Communication Program* is to help employees understand the potential hazards of the chemicals in use at their worksite. This education, required by the Occupational Safety & Health Act (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), is also called *Workers' Right To Know*. Failure to meet all the requirements of the law is one of the most frequently cited violation. One of the reasons for this: many employers, supervisors and workers think chemicals are just too complex to explain and to understand. As a result, there is a temptation to avoid the subject.

Hazard Communication is very important, however, because it can protect employees from dangers that may be present when chemicals are being used. One very important key to a Hazard Communication Program is the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). These sheets tell you "everything you need to know" about a specific chemical. If you read the MSDS you will be able to determine:

- The **HEALTH HAZARDS** associated with any chemical you are using or are exposed to;
- How **FLAMMABLE** the product is, and at what temperature it may ignite;
- The **REACTIVITY** of the chemical with water or other agents-will it explode, etc.?
- What **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)** is needed to work with the product.

Every employee should be able to answer, and should *remember*, the following questions:

- Where are the MSDS's kept for the chemicals I am exposed to?
- What kinds of hazards do I face when I use-or misuse--this chemical?
- Do I understand the emergency procedures to follow in the event of a spill?
- Have I inspected my personal protective equipment

to be sure that it will protect me properly when and if I need to use it?

Chemistry is a complex subject, and it's hard to understand everything about the dozens of chemicals being used at work. Maybe the best way to accomplish this is to recall the question, "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer is, "One bite at a time!"

If one or two MSDS's are reviewed at regular safety meetings everyone will soon better understand the chemicals they work with, and know how to protect themselves from injury or illness.



Green Key Toolbox Talks

By Kevin Yaney

Green Key #1:

Where we work—Land use stewardship

All of us have an impact on the place where we live and work. The IMI Green Team has developed four Keys to Environmental Stewardship. The first Green Key deals with land usage. We recently conducted a survey of our employees to see what the company was doing to positively impact the land we work upon. Here is a sampling of results.

- We have zero waste at our aggregate mining sites. We make sure we use everything we mine.
- We comply with environmental regulations on air, water and land pollution. This includes a zero discharge policy.
- We have taken measures to cut down on airborne dust by confining raw materials in enclosed bins and watering throughways.
- The aggregate mining facilities have landscaped the entrances of their facilities.

These are all very good, but small things can make a big difference too. For instance, IMI Tennessee's regional office decided to get rid of Styrofoam coffee cups and replaced them with ceramic mugs. This saved \$1,100 in costs and eliminated 5,200 cups from being sent to a landfill.

If you have ways to help us turn the Green Key where you work, let us know at greenkey@irvmat.com

We are on the web
www.irvmat.com

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Safety is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skilled execution! It represents the wise choice of many alternatives!!

Safe Commuting

Whether you work in a factory, an office building, a ready-mixed concrete plant, a mine, or for a construction company, you most likely all have one thing in common: *Getting to and from work involves driving a vehicle.* Follow these basic safe driving tips to help protect you from what may be the most dangerous part of your workday—the commute.

Standard precautions:

Ensure that all passengers in the vehicle are wearing safety belts at all times.

- Be sure you are well-rested before driving and avoid taking any medications that may cause drowsiness.
- Never drive or accept a ride from someone who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Set a realistic goal about the number of miles you can safely travel in one day.
- Obey the posted speed limits and reduce speed under adverse weather conditions.

Remain alert:

- Driving requires all of your attention, so avoid distractions on the road such as adjusting the radio, talking on a cell phone, or eating and drinking.
- As you drive, continually scan the roadway ahead for possible situations that may require quick action.



Location: _____

Supervisor: _____

please sign below, confirming the material was reviewed: _____ **September 2010**

Have an emergency action plan in mind.

- If taking a long drive, stop about every two hours to rest, stretch or take a walk.

Avoid road rage:

- Remain calm in the face of traffic conditions, no matter what.
- Reduce stress by carefully planning routes ahead of time, carrying a map in your vehicle, allowing plenty of travel time and, if possible, avoid the busiest times and roadways.
- Be patient and courteous toward other drivers, even when they are not.
- Do not take the action of other drivers personally.

The school year has started:

- School buses are again making their daily rounds. Be alert for their flashing lights and darting youngsters.
- Some students still walk or ride bicycles to school, be especially alert in school zones.
- Many young adults driving to school may not have the experience or may lack the knowledge to make the best decisions about driving conditions. Therefore use your best defensive driving ability especially near school zones.



- As the coming days grow shorter, make sure you can see and be seen by using your headlights during twilight.