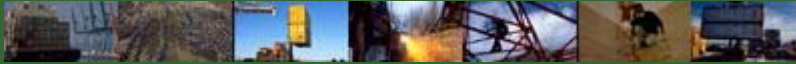




Safety Meeting Outline



SMO 07-0504

DERMATITIS

By SeaBright Insurance Loss Control

Dermatitis is an inflammation of the skin. Dermatitis is a localized rash or irritation of the skin caused by **contact** with a foreign substance. There are 2 types of contact dermatitis: **allergic and irritant**.

Allergic dermatitis occurs when the skin overreacts to the foreign substance, usually an animal or vegetable protein such as poison oak, poison sumac or poison ivy.

Irritant dermatitis results from coming in contact with a substance that directly damages the skin. The longer the substance remains on the skin, the more severe the reaction. Around construction work there are many materials which can cause this kind of injury. The most common are those used in concrete and masonry work; cement, lime, form oil, curing compounds, epoxy, etc. Other materials such as paint, lubricants and preservatives (such as creosote) can also cause an irritant dermatitis.

Dermatitis can occur after the first contact or after repeated exposures. However, once a reaction has occurred, increased sensitivity and reaction will usually occur after each contact. To avoid becoming sensitized, it is best to follow the following precautions:

- Review the Material Safety Data Sheets for appropriate personal protective equipment
- Wear boots and gloves when they are necessary
- Use a protective skin cream on hands and forearms at the beginning of the day
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and tuck your pants into your boots
- Shower after work to remove potential sources of reaction
- Change clothing after work.
- Get medical attention if and when you first notice a skin rash.

