



Safety Meeting Outline



SMO 08-0504

ALWAYS USE A RESPIRATOR WHEN SPRAY PAINTING

By SeaBright Insurance Loss Control

Almost everyone has performed spray painting, be it on the job or at home. When we talk of spray painting we include paint sprayed from aerosol cans. Aerosol containers have the same health and fire hazards of paint delivery systems using a compressor.

Paint products consist of pigments and additives in a carrier. In commonly used industrial paints this carrier is a petroleum based solvent. This type of paint is classified as a hazardous material. Generally, spray painting is considered more dangerous than brush or roller application. Spraying is done by atomizing the paint, that is turning it into a mist. These fine droplets are mixed with air and can be inhaled. Further, paints dry and cure by evaporating the solvent carrier off the product and into the air where it can be breathed.

Inhalation of any hazardous material represents a dangerous means of entry into the body. The internal surface area of the lungs has been estimated to be greater than 1000 square feet. This is a large absorption area allowing rapid transfer of the potentially toxic chemical into the blood stream. Respirators should be worn for protection. With proper cartridges and filters these will prevent the vapors and mists from being inhaled. When inhaled into the lungs, aerosols may cause tissue damage, a reaction, or plugging. Chemical vapors may cause an adverse tissue reaction, or the chemical may be passed into your blood and damage other body organs.

There are a number of different types of cartridges that can fit your respirator. Usually the cartridge should say it is approved for protection against "Organic Vapors." It is always best to check the Material Safety Data Sheet to be sure of the type of cartridge you need for the particular product you are applying. Cartridges do not last forever. They should be changed when they start to clog or lose their effectiveness. For most paints, cartridge effectiveness can be judged by lack of odor when inhaling. However, if you are using highly hazardous chemicals, or chemicals with poor identifier characteristics, do not exceed the recommended cartridge life. This is found in the NIOSH Guide. Cartridge life can be prolonged by using a pre-filter to trap dusts and larger mist droplets. Keep your respirator clean. It makes little sense to try to obtain clean air through a respirator that is dirty inside.

You should know that cartridge-type respirators will not offer life support capabilities in an oxygen deficient atmosphere and should not be used where a high concentration of toxic gases or vapor may be present.

Respirators, to be most effective, cannot be worn over beards or other facial hair which will break the seal, and allow toxic vapors to be inhaled. Always check to see that your respirator has been properly fit-tested. If you don't know how to do this, check with your supervisor, or call your safety supplier.



SAFETY MEETING AGENDA

DEPARTMENT/JOB SITE: _____ MEETING DATE: _____

1. **Open Meeting & Present safety topic:** _____
2. Read minutes from previous meeting.
3. **Persons present:**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. **Old Business** – Status of previous recommendations. Discuss pending old business if any.

5. **Accidents** – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since the last meeting. Brief summary of accidents to date by number and type. Note any trends. Discuss corrective action taken, or needed. Concentrate on accident causes to make everyone more aware.

6. **Inspection Reports** – Report on findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since last meeting.

7. **New Business** – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

TIME MEETING STARTED: _____ TIME FINISHED: _____

MEETING CHAIRED BY: _____ TITLE: _____