



Tailgate/Toolbox Safety Training

Safety Services Company-Safety Meeting Division, PO Box 6408 Yuma, AZ 85366-6408 Toll Free (866) 204-4786



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____
 Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 319: Smoking on the Job



Introduction: Smoking at break time or after lunch on the job-site or workplace is a common way for workers to relax and unwind. However, aside from the well known chronic health risks associated with smoking, there are hazards to smoking at work which may not be as obvious. In addition to work place hazards of smoking the non-smoking members of society are becoming less and less tolerant of smokers. This intolerance has some legitimate reasons, and even the federal government, many state governments, and municipalities are passing legislation against public smoking. Following are guidelines for safety and etiquette when smoking on the job:

Hazards to smokers on the job: Although smoking may create a hazard by distracting the smoker's attention from their work, the main hazard of smoking on the job is, of course, the threat of fire, or explosion. Hazards may not always be as obvious as gasoline, propane, or other fuels on a jobsite, or at the workplace. Following are hazards and hazardous situations for smokers to watch for:

- Distracting attention** from the work being performed.
- Welding** and brazing fuel tanks.
- Fuel storage** and refueling areas.
- Grain dust** at handling and storage facilities.
- Cotton** and other natural fabric dust.
- Phenol preservative** treated wood and wood products, and dry wood storage areas.

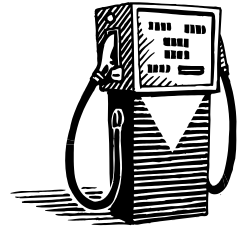


- Smoking or eating** after handling lead, asbestos, or other hazardous substances.
- Painting areas** where flammable paints and paint thinners may be in use.
- Waste disposal** areas where gases may accumulate.
- Battery gas** emissions.
- Finish work** areas where cigarette burns may damage work.



Preventative measures - Steps to take to avoid on the job hazards for smokers:

- Do not smoke** while doing work which requires, or may suddenly require the use of both hands.
- Fueling areas**, welding and other fuel storage areas should be clearly marked and post warning signs stating the hazardous material involved and **"NO SMOKING WITHIN 50 FEET"**.
- Grain dust** and dust from fabrics can combust with explosive energy. Smoking should not be allowed within 50 feet of grain storage and handling facilities, or fabric and clothing manufacturing facilities.
- Wood treated** with phenol preservatives may be even more flammable when newly treated than ordinarily. Do not allow smoking in wood and lumber storage areas.
- Smoking and eating** on the job are common ways to transfer hazardous materials such as lead, asbestos, and other toxic chemicals to your face and mouth. Do not smoke or eat in areas where hazardous materials are used. Wash your hands well before eating or smoking after exposure to hazardous materials.
- Many paints** and paint thinners are flammable, and their fumes in enclosed areas may create combustible situations. Store paints and paint thinners in areas clearly marked, and ventilate enclosed areas where painting is being done. Do not smoke in these areas.
- Waste disposal areas** may create flammable methane gas which may ignite under conditions where concentrations of the gases occur. Do not smoke in waste disposal areas.
- Wet cell batteries**, commonly used in vehicles, generate gases which may explode if provided with an igniter (such as a lit cigarette). Do not smoke when working with, or near batteries.
- Finish work** may be destroyed by a careless cigarette smoker; be conscientious of where you smoke and considerate of the work done by others.



Conclusion: A fire caused by a discarded cigarette butt may smolder for hours, well after personnel have left for the day, before flaring up. Jobs and workplaces where smoking may be hazardous should have designated smoking areas provided with ashtrays or butt cans for the safe disposal of butts. Smokers should be considerate of non-smokers and also dispose of their butts properly. Cigarette butts are not biodegradable. A job-site littered with cigarette butts is as unprofessional as a job-site littered with any other type of trash.



Work Site Review

Specific Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.