

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic C319: Smoking Cigarettes

**Introduction:** Smoking at break time or after lunch on the job or at the 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.

**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 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 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 solvents may be in use.
- Waste disposal areas where gases may accumulate.
- Battery gas emissions.
- Finish work areas where cigarette burns may damage work.

**Wood treated with phenol preservatives may be even more flammable when newly treated. Do not allow smoking in wood and lumber storage areas.**

**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. 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.

**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.

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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*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.*