



# Toolbox TALK

## WORKPLACE EXPOSURES: HOW MUCH RISK IS THERE?

Are you concerned about the chemicals and or materials with which you work?  
Are you concerned you could be exposed to too much? What can you do?

- Read the chemical/material label.
- Get trained on how to handle the chemical/material.
- Ask for and review the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

If you have a concern, ask to your employer about industrial hygiene sampling. Sampling may quantify the true exposure potential and, if necessary, methods can be implemented to reduce exposures such as:

1. Engineering controls reduce employee exposure by minimizing or removing a hazard at its source or isolating workers from the hazard (e.g., installing ventilation systems or enclosing machinery). Engineering control measures are a reliable way to manage worker exposures and minimize risk.
2. Administrative controls involve altering the way a task is performed (e.g., developing policies and procedures for work tasks or scheduling production and tasks to minimize exposure levels). This control type requires procedure enforcement and does not eliminate exposure or reduce risk.
3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is best used in conjunction with another control, or when no other control is feasible (e.g., hard hats, gloves, safety shoes, safety glasses). PPE is the least effective hazard control method.

A safety professional can assess the various options for your environment and advise you on the preferred controls for your unique situation.



Date:

ATTENDANCE RECORD

SUPERVISOR:

CREW MEMBERS PRESENT:

COMMENTS/FEEDBACK: