

Job site: _____
 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry	<h3>Airborne Pathogens</h3>		<h3>Instructor Tips</h3>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheet metal workers, especially TAB and service workers, may often encounter airborne pathogens while working. Workers can easily protect themselves from airborne pathogens that they are likely to encounter. • Diseases that are most likely to affect workers through airborne pathogens are Legionnaires Disease and Tuberculosis. • Legionnaires disease is a type of pneumonia that is caused by Legionella, a bacterium found primarily in warm water environments, such as plumbing systems, evaporative condensers, humidifiers, air-handling systems and cooling towers. • Elevated levels of Legionella may be present if you are working on an improperly maintained system where moisture, oxygen, and algae are present in temperatures between 50° F and 140° F. For instance, a poorly maintained condensate drain pan from an air-handling unit can create an environment for Legionella. • Tuberculosis, or TB, is a disease caused by bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis. TB is spread through the air from one person to another. The bacteria are put into the air when a person with TB coughs or sneezes. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected. TB is a concern for workers who work in hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, and other medical facilities where there are patients affected by the disease. • When a person breathes in TB bacteria, it can settle in the lungs and begin to grow. From there, they can move through the blood to other parts of the body, such as the kidneys, spine, and brain. • Both Legionnaires' disease and Tuberculosis are avoidable diseases if the right precautions are taken before entering a potentially hazardous work area. Workers' best protection against these conditions is being aware of the systems they are working on and wearing proper respiratory protection. Workers should always talk to their supervisors before using respiratory protection to ensure correct selection, inspection, fit testing, and use. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind workers that pathogens are micro-organisms that cause disease. • Ask workers to give examples of places where Legionnaires disease and Tuberculosis could be potential hazards. 	
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