

Job site: _____
 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Asbestos</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asbestos was once known as the magic mineral because it is a strong and fireproof material. It is a good insulating material, and prior to 1980, it was used in the production of building materials such as pipe wrap, ceiling tiles, insulation, and wallboard. However, asbestos is harmful to workers because its fibers are very small, lightweight, and often friable, which means that the material can easily break apart and release fibers into the air. These fibers are also easily inhaled for those not wearing the proper respirator protection. Workers who are exposed to asbestos can suffer adverse health affects such as lung cancer, a lung disease called asbestosis, and a rare type of cancer found only in those exposed to asbestos, called mesothelioma. There are several possible ways to eliminate or reduce asbestos hazards on the job. If you suspect asbestos to be somewhere in the work area, stop work immediately. Clear the area of all employees and personnel, and post temporary warning signs. Seek advice prior to touching or disturbing asbestos. Report your findings to your supervisor so that a certified expert may be called in to determine the presence of airborne fibers and to determine if work can proceed in a safe manner. Only trained and certified personnel should work in areas where airborne asbestos has been detected until the areas are cleared for re-occupancy and work can resume. Go to the doctor and get regular medical exams if you have worked in areas where asbestos was present or if you work in areas where asbestos is present on a regular basis. 	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Instructor Tips</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point out several sources of asbestos common to the work site (e.g., older pipe and duct insulation, spray-applied insulation, electrical wiring, insulation, etc.). Point out that workers who smoke are 90 times more likely to get lung cancer than non-smokers with the same exposure to asbestos.
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