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 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry	<h3>Beryllium</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beryllium is a brittle, steel-gray metal found as a component of coal, oil, certain rock minerals, volcanic dust, and soil. Elemental beryllium is the second lightest of all metals. Because it is lightweight and extremely stiff, it is used quite often in the aerospace, nuclear, and manufacturing industries. Beryllium is also amazingly versatile as a metal alloy where it is used in dental appliances, golf clubs, non-sparking tools, wheel chairs, and other electronic gadgets. The general population is exposed to normally low levels of beryllium in air, food, and water. People working in industries where beryllium is mined, processed, machined, or converted into metal, alloys, and other chemicals may be exposed to high levels of beryllium. Overexposure to beryllium in the air can result in a condition called acute beryllium disease, which closely resembles pneumonia. Chronic beryllium reaction may occur after many years of exposure to higher than normal levels of beryllium. Victims of this condition may develop an inflammatory reaction in the respiratory system. Other symptoms include weakness and fatigue, difficulty in breathing, and weight loss. It may also lead to right-side heart enlargement, and heart disease in advanced cases. Workers should use approved respirators when potential exposures to beryllium are above the occupational limits. Workers should also wear safety glasses, goggles, face shield, or welders helmet. Gloves should be worn to prevent metal cuts and skin abrasions. Workers who work around high levels of beryllium-containing dusts, fumes, or powders should wear a protective overgarment over their work clothing. Contaminated work clothing and overgarments should be contained and labeled to prevent secondary exposure to coworkers, to prevent contamination to personal clothing, and to reduce the risk of take-home exposure. 	<h3>Instructor Tips</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask workers to recall situations where they have worked with or around beryllium.
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