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SMOHIT Safety SenseToolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

Corrosives

- Corrosives are harsh substances, usually acids or bases. Acid
 corrosives include battery fluid, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid,
 nitric acid and sulfuric acid. Base corrosives include sodium hydrate
 (lye), potassium hydroxide (caustic potash), and ammonium hydroxide.
- Corrosives are usually harmful to the human body. They could destroy (burn) the tissues of the skin, eyes and other parts of the body they come into contact with.
- When working with corrosives:
 - Be sure you have read and understand the label on the container.
 - Use appropriate personal protective equipment.
 - Store acids and bases separately because, when combined, they can explode.
 - Store corrosives in an approved containment area and separately from flammable liquids. Storage areas should be properly lighted and ventilated.
 - Corrosives should be dispensed only from approved nozzles or dispensers. Check storage containers regularly for leaks and to make sure that caps and spouts are in good condition.
 - Do not smoke around corrosives. Wash your hands before eating or drinking.
 - Know the location of the eyewash stations, safety showers, and spill control stations. Also, know where there is a source of fresh air
 - Always pour liquid corrosives into approved containers. Never pour them down the sink, into a drain, into the sewer, or into the ground.
 - Know the procedures for cleaning, disposal, or decontamination of all clothing, PPE, and rags exposed to corrosives.

Instructor Tips

 Provide safety precautions for corrosives commonly used in the workplace.

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Reference: OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200