

Job site: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Foreman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 G.C. \_\_\_\_\_

<b>SMOHIT Safety Sense</b> <b>Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry</b>	<b>Freon®</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freon is one substance that you may run into frequently during HVAC jobs. Freon is a registered trademark used for a variety of nonflammable gaseous or liquid fluorinated hydrocarbons used in refrigeration and air conditioning units, as well as aerosol propellants.</li> <li>• Freon is clear in its liquid state, and colorless in its gas state. It has a slight ethereal odor.</li> <li>• Exposure routes for Freon are absorption through the eyes and skin, and inhalation.</li> <li>• Exposure symptoms for Freon include frostbite, cardiac irregularity, unconsciousness and, if exposed for a long enough time, death. Freon also aggravates medical conditions in those people with cardiovascular disease.</li> <li>• If you detect a Freon leak on the job site, ventilate the area, especially low or enclosed spaces, as Freon is denser than air and will stay low to the ground. Be sure to use proper respiratory protection (i.e., SCBA) for the cleanup of large spills or releases.</li> <li>• When handling Freon, use impervious gloves and chemical splash goggles. If large amounts of Freon are released, use local exhaust to ventilate the area. Avoid contact with chlorine or any other oxidizing agents.</li> <li>• It is extremely important to remember not to allow open flames near Freon. Freon exposed to open flames and heat sources causes a gas called phosgene gas. Phosgene gas is better known as mustard gas, which was a deadly gas used in World War I and World War II.</li> <li>• Typical exposure symptoms to phosgene gas are coughing, burning sensation in the throat and eyes, difficulty breathing, nausea and vomiting, lesions similar to those from frostbite, fluid in the lungs, low blood pressure, and heart failure. In severe, cases, phosgene gas could cause large mustard-colored blisters and blindness.</li> </ul>	<b>Instructor Tips</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tell workers that if Freon is exposed to an open flame, they should evacuate the area and contact a supervisor immediately.</b></li> </ul>
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