

Job site: _____
 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry	<h3>Lead</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead is a naturally occurring bluish-gray metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust. It is also found in plants, air, water, dust, and soil. • As an element, lead is indestructible. It does not break down and once it is released into the environment, it can move from one medium to another. For example, lead in dust can be carried long distances, dissolve in water, and find its way into soil where it can remain for years. It can also find its way into your home. • Lead has many useful properties. It is soft and easily shaped, durable, resistant to some chemicals, and fairly common. • People are exposed to lead by swallowing or breathing it. The major source of exposure, since lead has been taken out of gasoline, is dust from lead-containing paint, which can be found in older homes and on structures such as bridges. Tap water that runs through lead pipes and soldered joints in older homes can also be contaminated with lead. Lead fumes during welding operations is another source of lead. • Overexposure to lead can cause lead poisoning, which can cause significant health problems in adults, such as kidney and reproductive system damage. Lead poisoning may also cause learning disabilities in small children. • The following protective clothing and equipment must always be used when lead levels are above the permissible exposure limit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ coveralls or similar full-body work clothing; ○ gloves, hats, shoes, and disposable shoe coverlets; ○ face shields and vented goggles; and ○ appropriate respirators, if needed. • All protective clothing must be removed at the end of a work shift in change rooms provided for that purpose. Contaminated protective clothing must be cleaned, laundered, or disposed of, and placed in a closed, labeled container in the changing area. 	<h3>Instructor Tips</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point out to workers that lead overexposure is a leading cause of workplace illness. • Ask workers to name items where lead can be found (e.g., batteries, paint, ceramics, soldering and building materials, some medications and cosmetics, and until recently, in automobile fuel).
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