

Job site: _____
 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Occupational Cancer</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancer is a disorder of cell growth. Cancer may be caused either by the inheritance of an abnormal gene, or by exposure to an environmental agent acting directly or indirectly on cells. Each type of cancer may have its own set of causes. Many factors play a role in the development of cancer. A person's risk of developing a particular cancer is influenced by a combination of factors that interact in ways that are not fully understood. Some of the factors of cancer development include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal characteristics such as age, sex, and race. Family history of cancer. Diet and personal habits such as cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption. The presence of certain medical conditions. Exposure to cancer-causing agents in the environment. Exposure to cancer-causing agents in the workplace. Based on well-documented associations between occupational exposures and cancer, it is estimated that approximately 20,000 cancer deaths and 40,000 new cases of cancer each year in the U.S. are attributable to occupation. Occupational cancers tend to occur after long periods, usually between 10 and 40 years and at an earlier age than spontaneous cancers. Some carcinogens act together. For instance, asbestos workers who smoke are ten times more likely to develop cancer than those who do not. To reduce your risk of occupational cancers, be sure to read material safety data sheets (MSDS) to know which chemicals and particulates are cancer causing. Wear the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce your risk of exposure to all carcinogenic substances. 	<h3 style="margin: 0;">Instructor Tips</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasize that older workers should be screened regularly for certain types of cancers. Remind workers that SMOHIT performs asbestosis checks for all sheet metal workers who have ever been exposed to asbestos.
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Reference: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health