

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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PO Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

www.safetymeetingoutlines.com

Job Name _____

Date _____

PROMPT CARE CAN PREVENT INFECTION

Cuts, scrapes, and puncture wounds are a part of life. Even when we follow safe work practices, these minor injuries occur on the job. No matter how careful we are, they also occur off the job, at home, and during vacation. Although we call these injuries "minor," they can become very serious if you don't seek prompt medical attention.

Don't neglect the little things: Many construction workers consider injuries such as burns, cuts, bruises, and punctures of so little importance, that they continue their work and don't bother to get first aid treatment. Actually, it's dangerous to neglect these seemingly minor injuries because they can become complicated by infection. The safe and sensible thing to do is to seek first aid for all injuries. It's no exaggeration to say that when scratches, small abrasions, and burns are uncared for or improperly treated, they can cause major health hazards.

Breaking the protective barrier: Your skin acts as a protective shield or barrier against germs, dirt, and bacteria on its surface. When the skin is broken, the barrier is down and germs swarm into the open wound to multiply and infect it. Once infection develops, unless properly treated, it can spread rapidly. Infection can cause severe pain, permanent disability—even death.

Signs of infection: Pain is often the first sign of infection. Others include inability or difficulty moving the affected part of the body, numbness, redness, swelling, and fever. Should you suffer these symptoms, even after you have received medical attention, visit a healthcare professional immediately.

First Aid: First aid kits are provided on every job. They are usually located in the office or superintendent's trailer. The main thing to remember is that if you get hurt on or off the job, get the injury looked at by a trained medical professional. Taking the time to receive medical attention can mean the difference between healing and infection.

Beyond First Aid: Wounds that contain foreign materials such as wood splinters, glass, or other small fragments are much more likely to become infected. The longer the foreign material remains in the wound, the more likely it is that an infection will develop. Tetanus can also become a concern with deep wounds or puncture wounds. If the injured person has not received a tetanus shot within the last five years, one may be necessary.

Most small wounds heal in a few days, but you don't want to take any chances with your health. When in doubt, get medical assistance.

SAFETY REMINDER

Victims of animal bites and insect stings should seek medical attention! Infections and serious allergic reactions may become life-threatening.

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

S.A.F.E. Cards® planned for this week _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____

Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.