

Safety Data Sheets

Emergency Preparedness

A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is designed to provide employees and emergency responders with proper procedures for handling or working with hazardous chemicals. SDS provide information on fire fighting measures, first aid and personal protective equipment requirements. Anyone that uses a particular chemical on a regular basis should have a SDS on file in case of an emergency. Review these safety tips with your employees.

Tool Box Tips

- A SDS must be present on site for each hazardous chemical or product.
 - Coal tar pitch, roofing chemicals
 - Cleaners, solvents, paints
 - Lubricants, oils, fluids
- If an employee regularly uses a chemical, they need to read the SDS and know where copies are kept.
- Review the SDS for a commonly used product. Discuss how to:
 - Fight a fire involving the chemical.
 - Administer first aid if chemical exposure occurs.
 - Notify emergency services.
 - Clean up a spill.
 - Determine proper personal protective equipment.
 - Format differences in SDS, as they vary from one manufacturer to the next.
- If a SDS does not arrive with a shipment of chemicals or products, contact the salesperson or manufacturer for a copy.
- Contractors must make SDS available to their employees.
- Keep a SDS binder on site in case a chemical exposure, spill or related medical emergency occurs.
- All employees should know where the SDS binder is located.



These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.