Chemical Handling and Exposure: Let's All Stay Safe

Hazardous chemicals can be managed safely with the use of these strategies:

- Make sure all current and new employees are aware of the location of the Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
- Read the labels and SDS for the chemicals you are handling to ensure you understand how to safely use the chemical, what PPE is necessary and what to do in case of an emergency.
- Chemicals should be stored according to the instructions on the SDS. Make sure the containers are clean and sealed properly so the next employee to use them isn’t exposed to the chemical.
- Use chemicals only for their intended purpose, for example, don’t ever use solvents to clean your hands or clothing.
- Do not eat, smoke or drink where chemicals are handled, processed or stored.
- Wash hands carefully before eating, smoking, using the toilet, handling cosmetics or touching contact lenses, even if you were wearing PPE when you were handling the chemicals.
- Do not use any chemical if the label is missing or the cap is damaged.
- Don’t take any risks. If in doubt ask your supervisor.

By taking chemical use and exposure seriously, we can keep each other and ourselves safe.

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