Spotlight on Safety

Chemical Safety



- Inhalation is exposure to the respiratory tract, comprised of the mucous membrane of the mouth, throat, and lungs – the size of the contaminant particle affects the location of exposure; for example, dust may stop in the nose and throat while inhaled gases or vapors may pass rapidly into the lungs and be carried into the circulatory system
- Ingestion is exposure by swallowing though this may seem obvious to avoid, it's important to note that the simple act of neglecting to wash one's hands before eating lunch could result in ingestion of a chemical if recently handled
- Absorption is exposure through the skin and eyes, which can result in localized irritation or worse, as these are portals to other organs in the body
- 4. Injection is exposure by entering the body if the skin is punctured or penetrated by chemical-contaminated objects

Safety at Home

Preparation is Key: Keep the topic relevant. Work with your team to review the various types of chemical hazards in your the properties

It is important to address the hazardous chemicals found in everyday products in your home – just as one does in the workplace. Common household products that contain hazardous chemicals include gasoline, paints, and cleaning agents, such as bleach. the properties that contain the

hazardous. For example, degreasers are excellent cleaning agents better, just more dangerous – use all chemicals sparingly in the home. but are corrosive to skin. Implementing safe chemical handling and storage procedures are necessary to ensure you don't storage but a chemical from its original container into another container, always

injury or illness as a result of hazardous chemical exposultable it — a child may not know the difference between a yellow-colored cleaning product in an old Mountain Dew plastic container and the real thing.

Before we dive into the requirements for hazardous chemicals retrinat some chemicals can be extremely harmful if mixed or used incorrectly – should first understand how they can cause injury and illess if notion can be found on (minipation retrinated 7.9 (I)3.31.5S387 mo6 42.1 S(I)-8.8 (y) 10.038 handled or stored properly. In the past five years, there have been 49 chemical-related injuries at Northwestern, most resulting from

inadequate storing and handling procedures - let's discuss the

following routes of exposure to prevent future chemical related injuries: For Additional Information

Contact Gwen Butler, Director, Environmental Health & Safety, at 847.491.4936.

Do you or your team have a safety story you'd like to share? Contact Risk Management at gwen.butler@northwestern.edu for details.