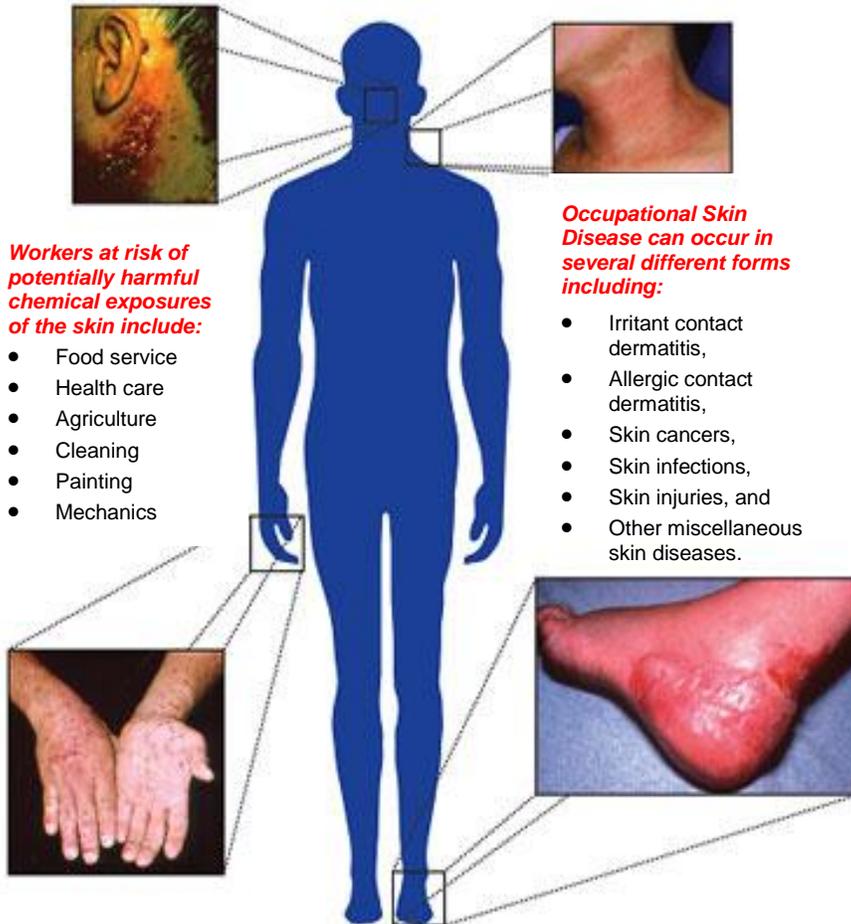


MCLB ALBANY SAFETYGRAM

CHEMICALS AND EXPOSURE TO THE SKIN

Some people automatically associate chemicals with scientists in laboratories, but chemicals are also found in many of the products we use at work and at home. It is estimated that more than 13 million workers in the United States are potentially exposed to chemicals that can be absorbed through the skin.



Chemical Absorption through the Skin:

- The skin is composed of a number of layers which can protect us from biological, physical and chemical hazards encountered in the natural environment.
- A number of chemicals corrode or burn the skin; others dissolve the outer layer of the skin.
- If the skin is damaged by injuries, it is more likely to be penetrated by chemicals.
- Once chemicals enter through the skin they may be carried away in the blood stream, causing harm to the organs or to bodily functions related to breathing, the nervous system, etc.

Occupational skin diseases are the second most common type of occupational disease.

Managing Exposure:

- Reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals when possible.
- Maintain proper ventilation systems.
- Practice good personal hygiene.
- Use personal protective equipment.



Tips For Chemical Safety:

- Always read the label and the MSDS/SDS.
- Always follow the instructions on the label and MSDS/SDS.
- Never use a chemical if you are unsure what it is or how to protect yourself.
- Always ensure proper storage.

Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/skin/> for more information about Chemicals and Exposure to the Skin.

Risk Management 639-5249

Prepared by: Chris Chop

Jul 14

