

Lessons Learned: Herculiner in Eyes

Truck Bed Lining

April 19, 2010



NARRATIVE:

Recently two USFS employees from the Inyo National Forest applied Herculiner to the bed of a fleet truck. During clean up, one of the employees removed his glasses and was removing the head of the paint roller from the roller handle. The employee pulled the handle toward himself with one hand and pushed the head of the roller away with the other hand from about chest level using moderate force. When the head came off it flew into the open container of

Herculiner splashing the employee in the right eye with Herculiner. The employee was taken to the doctor for both eyes. Upon examination, his vision was not impaired and he did not have lingering pain from contact with the chemical. The doctor prescribed for employee liquid eye-drops and antibiotic ointment.

DETAILS:

- Employees reviewed manufacturer instruction prior to applying Herculiner sealant to the truck. There was no Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) for the activity.
- Although the instructions required the wearing of rubber gloves and said to avoid contact with skin and eyes, the instructions did not required persons to wear safety goggles. The Material Safety Data Sheet said that plastic eye protection is required. Current regional policy does not allow non-fleet service employees modify fleet vehicles.
- Fleet Maintenance (FM) requires modification to fleet vehicles be done through FM contact.

Lesson(s) Learned and Recommendations:

- Review of current/signed JHA is required before doing work for each work project or activity.
 - First line supervisors prepare JHAs for line officers to sign annually.
 - Workers sign off for having been trained or review of applicable JHA before doing the work.
- For a best safety practice, work teams should review safety hazards daily before specific activities are done, even when there has been previous training or review of appropriate JHA.
- When working with chemicals that have splash potential, wear protective safety goggles, not glasses. Safety goggles will prevent chemicals from going around the side and getting into the eyes. Wear goggles under face shields for the same reason.
- As with any personal protective equipment, safety goggles should meet proper certification, ANSI Z87.1 for eye protection, and be inspected daily before use. (ANSI marking is required on PPE.)
- Employees need to know Fleet Maintenance contracts out all fleet vehicle modifications.

More eye safety can be found at, <http://fsweb.f14.r6.fs.fed.us/safety/Safety%20Pamphlets/eye-face.pdf>