CHAPTER 25: WORKING WITH CAUSTIC LIME
THE HAZARD

Lime dust is a mild caustic material that when mixed with water can cause burns to the skin. These burns will normally affect the more tender skin such as the wrists, face, neck, and waist. Generally speaking getting caustic lime on your hands will not cause a burn, but some people are more susceptible to burns from this material than others.

Caustic lime burns will normally occur when lime dust gets on the skin and the person is perspiring. The mixture of the perspiration and lime dust will start to burn the skin. These burns will often be made more severe by the rubbing of the effected area by the clothing such as the cuff of the overalls, collar of a shirt or waistband of pants.

If caustic lime burns are left untreated they can become quite painful and will scar.

PREVENTION

Barrier Cream

**Liberal use of Barrier Cream**

Prior to the start of work barrier cream must be used. The cream should be placed:

- On the face
- On the wrists
- On the neck
- On the waist

**Reapplication of Barrier Cream**

As you work and sweat, this cream will wash off. To prevent this from happening, prior to the end of break, each worker should:

- Thoroughly wash each area where barrier cream has been applied to remove any caustic dust stuck to the cream
- Liberally reapply the barrier cream.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

**Respirators with HEPA filters**

These respirators should be used during tear-out. It is recommended that Full-Face respirators be used. This is due to the greater potential for burns on the bridge of the nose if half face respirators are used. If half face respirators are to be used, barrier cream must be placed on the bridge of the nose and the face, and must be washed on a regular basis to prevent the rubbing of the caustic dust into the skin.

**Leather Gloves**

Heavy-duty gloves should be used. It is recommended that the longer gauntlet glove be used to prevent the glove from rubbing on the wrist. The inside of the gloves must be kept as clean as possible.

**Tyvex Coveralls**

These disposable coveralls should be used. It is recommended that the sleeve of the coverall be taped to the glove to prevent dust from getting into the wrist area. If the sleeve is taped, it should be taped so it is loose around the wrist and not causing either the glove or the coverall to rub on the wrist.

The remaining PPE requirements outlined in the JTT Injury and Illness Prevention Program must also be followed.

FIRST AID PROCEDURES

You must pay attention to any burning or tingling sensations felt on the skin. This is the first sign that caustic burns are occurring. If you ignore these signs, you will get burns and they may become serious.

- Stop work immediately.
- Take off the protective clothing.
- If available use a mild acidic solution such a vinegar and pour it on the effected area.
• Go to a safety shower or sink and wash the effected area with a large volume of water. This is to be done even if vinegar is used.
• Dry the area with a “clean towel.”
• Use and antiseptic cream on the area
• Reapply the barrier cream on the area
• Put on clean PPE.

If any additional signs of burning occur, discontinue working for that day in the dusty environment.