

Poison Ivy and Outdoor Hazards

PROJECT / SITE	DATE	TALK LED BY

THE HAZARD

NIOSH lists construction workers among those at risk from poisonous plants. The oil that causes the reaction transfers from clothing, gloves and tools as readily as from the leaves themselves.

WHAT GOES WRONG

- Clearing ground without looking at what is actually growing on it.
- Cleared vegetation burned, which puts the oil into smoke and then into lungs.
- Contaminated gloves and tools put back in the truck and handled bare-handed later.
- Reaction assumed to be a heat rash and worked through for days.

CONTROLS: BEFORE YOU START

- Learn to recognize poison ivy, oak and sumac before you clear anything.
- Cover skin: long sleeves, long pants, gloves and boots when clearing vegetation.
- Wash exposed skin with soap and cool water as soon as possible after contact.
- Wash gloves, tools and clothing separately. The oil stays active on them for a long time.
- Never burn cleared vegetation that may contain any of these plants.

ASK THE CREW

1. Where does it actually grow on this site?
2. Who is clearing ground this week and what are they wearing?
3. What happens to the cleared vegetation on this job?
4. Has anyone had a reaction here this season?

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Everyone present signs below. This sheet is the record of the talk.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE
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SUPERVISOR / COMPETENT PERSON	SIGNATURE