**Safe Work Practices Classroom Exercise**

**Scenario #1**

It’s mid-afternoon on an unusually warm summer day. While checking on progress of the attic cellulose installation, you see that the crew member blowing the attic has removed his shirt, goggles, and respirator. You can barely make him out through the cloud of cellulose dust in the attic. You know he hasn’t seen you. He’s only about half done. Your agency has a “no exceptions” rules about wearing protective equipment while working. You:

1. Quickly go back to the task you were doing before anyone realizes you are aware of the rule infraction. After the attic is done, call the installer aside and tell him you understand the attic was hot but that if OSHA had come along or the homeowner had noticed and reported him, the whole crew would be in trouble.
2. Yell at him to get his protective gear on at once or you will write him up.
3. Yank the hose really hard to get his attention and wave your index finger at him as a warning.
4. Use the crew’s prearranged break time signal (such as snapping the blower on and off), and call a break. Meet him as he comes down from the attic and explain that you understand how uncomfortable the attic is but that the protective gear rules exist for his safety and must be obeyed. Offer to put him on another task to finish the day and postpone completing the cellulose blowing until the next morning before the sun heats the attic.

**Scenario #2**

While doing your regular Friday afternoon after-work equipment check, you discover that one leg of your crew’s only 6-foot stepladder is split just below the lowest step. You:

1. Get some duct tape and repair it. Write a note to yourself to instruct crew members on Monday morning to be careful when using the ladder.
2. Use the circular saw to cut the ladder into small pieces and throw them in the trash.
3. Use the circular saw to cut all four legs off just above the split, creating a shorter but safe ladder.
4. Tag the ladder as unsafe and submit a request for a replacement.

**Scenario #3**

The novice crew member assigned to air seal the attic tells you at break that when he pulled back the fiberglass batt wrapped around the cast iron plumbing vent stack, he found that the vertical pipe chase below was full of a shiny, loose fill material that looked like pieces of mica. He says before he foamed over the opening, he pulled some out so the foam would adhere to the ceiling drywall below. He asks if you know what it might be. You immediately go to the attic hatch and, looking at the small, grey particles scattered over the existing fiberglass batts around the vent stack, are certain the substance is vermiculite. You:

1. Tell him to forget he ever saw it and quickly have the crew bury the entire attic in cellulose.
2. Call an immediate halt to the job and tell everyone present to report to the local hospital emergency room.
3. Have a discussion with the crew and decide on a course of action. Go with the majority opinion.
4. After ascertaining the crew member was wearing a respirator, disposable gloves and a Tyvek suit, explain company policy about vermiculite and how to recognize it. Be certain the gloves and suit are properly disposed of. Inform the auditor and your supervisor of the situation. Unless instructed to the contrary, inform the homeowner of the situation. Unless the homeowner has proof that the material does *not* contain asbestos, seal the attic entrance shut without doing any further work there. Complete the balance of the job but do not conduct any further blower door testing anywhere in the home.

**Scenario #4**

Your crew is insulating a Cape-style home built right after World War II. When you unzip the vinyl siding to drill and blow the walls, you find heavily painted clapboards underneath. What do you do?

1. Drill the wall as you normally would. The work order didn’t mention lead paint so it probably isn’t lead, and even if it is, the area disturbed will be below the minimum size requiring lead-safe practices.
2. Zip the siding back in place. The paint might contain lead, and lead is dangerous.
3. Say nothing and drill the wall as you normally would. You’re not a bunch of wusses; and once the vinyl siding is replaced, no one will ever know anyway.
4. Place 6-mil poly on the ground. Wear your respirator while drilling. After drilling the wall, roll and tape the poly containing all the chips and place it in the homeowner’s trash.