

Flammable and Combustible Liquids

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Recently, to dramatize the danger of hauling gasoline in the trunk of a car, a test was conducted igniting one gallon of gasoline inside a car trunk. The resulting explosion blasted the trunk lid along with a huge fireball, some 80 feet into the air, with a force that would have killed anyone in that car.

Since you can't move fast enough to get away from an explosion, you had better do what's necessary to avoid one.

Handling flammable and combustible liquids is a common occurrence on construction projects. When you're the one that's handling them, do you follow proper guidelines, or do you tend to ignore and under estimate the dangers? To fully understand the real dangers of these liquids, you must know the difference between them.

1. A FLAMMABLE LIQUID like gasoline, lacquer thinner, alcohol, some paint thinners, etc. are much more volatile. Their vapors can ignite below 100° F, even down to freezing and below.
2. A COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID such as fuel oil, kerosene, linseed oil, etc, must exceed 100° F in order to release enough vapors to ignite.

Whenever handling liquids in containers marked flammable or combustible, READ THE WARNING LABEL and remember, in addition to the danger of fire and explosion, there may be other serious health threats from these liquids—inhaling vapors, contact with skin, eyes, etc.

Listed safety containers are required for storing, handling and transporting of flammable or combustible liquids of any quantity.

GENERAL SAFETY REVIEW

This is a time to review all safety concerns, not just today's topic. Keep your notes on this page before, during and after the safety meeting.

Are you aware of any safety hazards from any other crews? Point out any hazards other crews are creating that this crew should know about. Tell the crew what you intend to do about those hazards.

Do we have any other safety business? Discuss any past issues or problems. Report any progress of investigations and action taken.

Have there been any accidents, near misses or complaints? Discuss any accidents, near misses, and complaints that have happened since the last safety meeting. Also recognize the safety contributions made by members of the crew.

Please remember, we want to hear from you about any health and safety issues that come up. If we don't know about problems, we can't take action to fix them.

ENDING THE MEETING

Circulate Sign-Off Form.

Assign one or more crew member(s) to help with next safety meeting.

Refer action items for follow-up.

Do you have any Safety Recommendations?

Do you have any Job Specific Topics you would like us to discuss?

Have you reviewed the M.S.D.S Sheet for this safety topic? Yes____ No____
N/A____

Comments:
