

MAFES Dawg Tracks



September 10, 2007

Flammable Liquid



We use flammable liquids in many different ways. They do present unique hazards to the people who use them. They can cause a fire or explosion, and like many other substances, they can cause serious health effects from overexposure. In this issue we will discuss flammable liquid hazards, and some ways to use them very carefully and safely.

Flammable liquids are liquids with a flash point of less than 100° F. The flash point is the lowest temperature at which a liquid gas gives off enough vapor to form a flammable mixture with air. On the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) diamond label, a fire hazard rating of three or four denotes a flammable liquid. Other labels used to identify flammable liquids are red with the appropriate wording and they usually contain a fire symbol.

The vapors of a flammable liquid often present the most serious hazard. The vapors can easily ignite or explode. Flammable liquid vapors are heavier than air and may settle in low spots or move a significant distance from the liquid itself.

The explosive concentration of vapors in air has a lower and upper limit. The lower explosive, or LEL, is the lowest concentration that it will ignite. The upper explosive limit, or UEL, is the highest concentration that will ignite. If the vapor concentration is between the LEL and the UEL, there is a serious risk of fire or explosion.

Precautions to Minimize the Risk of Ignition of Flammable Liquids:

- Always check the MSDS for the material you're using to understand the specific hazards involved.
- Store flammable liquids in cool, well-ventilated areas away from corrosives, oxidizers, and ignition sources.
- Label all containers and cabinets with appropriate "flammable materials" signs.
- Do not smoke in areas where flammable liquids are used or stored.
- Minimize the amount of flammable liquids that are used.
- Use only approved safety cans to store flammable liquids.
- Never pour flammable liquids down a drain or sink.

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- Ground and bond flammable liquid containers to prevent static charge buildup.
- Do not pour flammable liquids down a drain or sink.
- Dispose of empty flammable containers in an approved manner.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as: splash aprons and goggles when handling flammable liquids.

Flammable liquids also present health hazards from over exposure. The MSDS for the material you're using will list the allowable exposures. Overexposures to flammable liquids can cause a variety of effects.

Inhalation of flammable liquids cause irritation to the respiratory passages, nausea, headaches, muscle weakness, drowsiness, loss of coordination, disorientation, confusion, unconsciousness, and death.

Skin contact with flammable liquids can cause the skin's oils to be removed, resulting in irritated, cracked, dry skin, rashes, and dermatitis.

Eye contact with flammable liquids can cause burning, irritation, and eye damage.

Ingestion of flammable liquids can irritate the digestive tract, cause poisoning and death.

The appropriate personal protective equipment will help to prevent the exposure to flammable liquids. Use PPE faithfully to protect your good health.

Flammable liquids are used in many workplaces and in home situations. Careless mistakes and safety shortcuts lead to serious problems when it comes to flammable liquids. The hazards are deadly. Thus, they deserve a healthy respect for their dangers. When you use them, stay focused on these dangers and guard against their hazards. You can prevent problems by using sound judgment and following the instructions on the MSDS and the text of this week's newsletter.

MOMMA DIDN'T RAISE NO FOOL—

USE THE PPE TO STAY COOL!!