

Toolbox Talk

35. Highly Flammable Liquids



What?

- Flammable and highly flammable liquids are liquids which give off flammable vapour at ambient temperature and includes liquids such as petroleum, spirits, liquid spirits and some types of paint thinners. These types of liquid are kept in purposely designed containers which prevent vapours from escaping and should be clearly marked "Highly Flammable Liquid" so that everyone knows what is in the container. They are normally stored in a secure area well away from sunlight and sources of heat with containment trays to prevent liquid escaping from the secure area

Why?

- They ignite very easily because they give off flammable vapour at ambient temperature and the greater the liquid surface the more flammable vapour they will give off. That is why it is so important to contain the liquid to prevent vapour escaping, it is also essential to keep the liquid well clear of any type of ignition source including items which you may not suspect such as mobile phones, as any ignition source can ignite the vapour

Do



- ✓ Store containers in a secure manner to prevent them from falling or tipping
- ✓ Keep in the proper storage areas provided
- ✓ Only transport and use in suitably marked containers designed to hold flammable liquid
- ✓ Only withdraw enough liquid to carry out the immediate task
- ✓ Replace the lid as soon as you have withdrawn the liquid
- ✓ Keep containers well clear of any kind of ignition source
- ✓ Clear up any spill as soon as possible
- ✓ Ensure there is adequate ventilation

Don't



- ✗ Smoke or undertake hot work near flammable liquid
- ✗ Use damaged containers
- ✗ Leave lids off when not in use
- ✗ Put liquid in unmarked containers
- ✗ Pour down sinks or drains



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