

FLAMMABLE HAZARDS

They May Surprise You

Flammables are common chemicals. They are liquids (like gasoline) and gases that burn, release vapors, or even explode under what *seem* like safe conditions. Protect yourself from unwanted surprises. Read this sheet carefully. Check container labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) for safe procedures.

The Nature Of Flammables

Flammable gases and liquids burn at close to room temperature (under 100° F), when they are near a spark, flame, or even static electricity. Many of them evaporate quickly. These are called “volatile.” Flammables can also explode. Their MSDSs can tell you when: look for the upper and lower explosive limits.

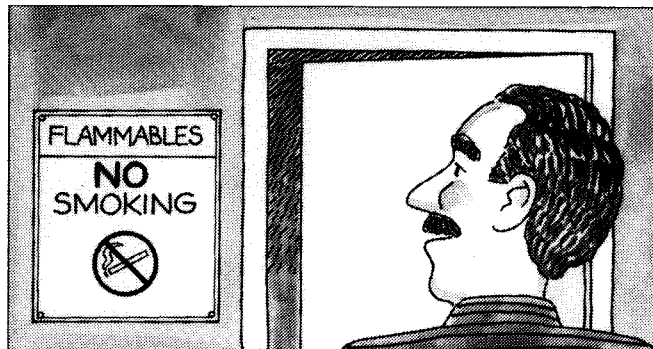
Some chemicals are so flammable that they burn simply from contact with air. These are called “pyrophoric”. (“Pyro” means fire, “phoric” means “carrier”).

Your Best Defense

Your best defense against flammables is to play it safe. Never take shortcuts or unnecessary risks around these chemicals. MSDSs will let you know how to avoid conditions or other chemicals which can cause them to explode or burn. Ask your supervisor if you have questions.

9 Ways To Stay Safe

1. Keep flammables away from fire and sparks. Never smoke, cut or weld around them.
2. Keep flammables and reactives away from each other. Reactives are chemicals which explode, burn or release dangerous vapors very easily.
3. Know the location of the right kind of fire extinguisher for the chemical you're using. The wrong extinguisher can spread a fire.
4. Wear the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the job. Make sure it fits.
5. Work in well-ventilated areas. Use available fans, hoods, and ventilation systems.
6. Check to see that all containers are labeled. They should be in good working order. Check caps, screens,




Never smoke, cut or weld around flammables.

valves, seals and containers for leaks. Replace or dispose of containers and parts if necessary.

7. Do not mix flammables with other chemicals unless you have been instructed to do so.
8. Use grounding and bonding wires to prevent dangerous static electricity while you are transferring flammables from one container to another.
9. Take special care to handle, store and dispose of flammables properly.

Respect And Protect

Each flammable reacts differently to its environment. Respect these chemicals and follow safe procedures. You'll protect yourself and others in your workplace from unwanted fires and explosions. 



Flammable gases and liquids can catch fire at under 100° F.

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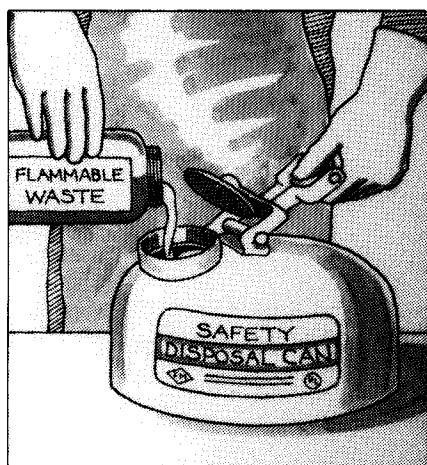
Safe Handling, Storage and Disposal

Flammables are liquids or gases that burn at temperatures under 100° F. Since that is close to room temperature, there is always a great danger of flammables catching fire or exploding. Handling, storing and disposing must be done carefully to prevent serious accidents.

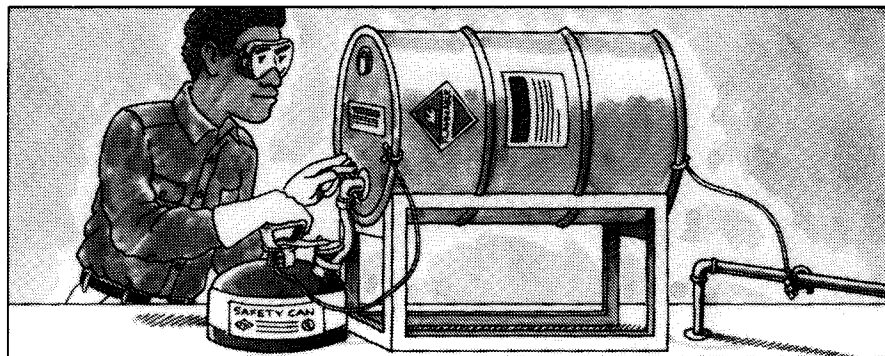
Read the MSDS First

Before handling a flammable chemical, always read the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Container labels provide helpful information, but the MSDS is much more complete. It includes guidelines about handling, storage, disposal, first aid, and emergencies.

Each flammable is different, although most evaporate quickly. Some explode when they are near even tiny sparks. Some explode simply on contact with air. When you read the MSDS, you'll know just how to work with the particular chemical.



Dispose of flammables in approved containers.



Use grounding and bonding wires when transferring flammables from one container to another.

Use common sense around flammables. Never smoke, cut or weld when you are near them. Don't mix a flammable with another chemical unless instructed to do so. Wear the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and use all suggested ventilation systems.

Static electricity can start fires when flammables are transferred from one container to another. Use grounding and bonding wires to prevent static.

Before you begin working with flammables, make sure you know the location of two important safety tools: the spill control station, and the correct fire extinguisher.

Store Flammables By Themselves

Flammables should be stored by themselves, in a temperature-controlled area. It should be well-ventilated. Keep flammables far from heat or electric sources.

Store flammables in approved safety containers. The containers should have vapor-tight caps and

flame arrestors. Check to see that all containers are labeled and in good working order. Fix any leaks or damaged parts, or dispose of them.

Dispose Of Flammables Safely

Your company and the MSDSs will let you know how to dispose of flammables safely. Use only approved containers. Never pour flammables into the drain, sewer, garbage can, or ground. If your clothing or other materials are contaminated, follow your company's policy for disposal or decontamination.

Working Together Is The Only Way

It's important for you and your employer to work together. That's the only way to prevent flammable hazards. Your employer will provide training and equipment. It's your job to use what you learn and your common sense to protect yourself and your co-workers.



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What To Do In An Emergency

Flammables are gases and liquids that burn, release vapors, or explode at close to room temperature (under 100° F). Flammable emergencies can have a “domino effect” quickly. A small spark that causes gasoline to explode leads to a large fire, which then leads to a large explosion. Injury to people and damage to property can be serious.

Knowing what to do in an emergency can prevent an accident from becoming more serious. You never know when an emergency will happen. It's a good idea to take the time now to read Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), labels, and training materials. Become familiar with your company's emergency plans, and speak to your supervisor if you have questions.

Respond Quickly

In an emergency, your quick response may prevent damage. But you should handle the emergency yourself *only* if it is small and you are trained to handle it. Turn off any flames and equipment that can spark. Open windows and ventilate the area thoroughly. Clean up any spills using safe procedures and materials. If your clothing is contaminated, remove it immediately. Decontaminate, wash or dispose of it according to company procedures.

If there is a fire, make sure to use the right kind of extinguisher. The wrong kind can make the fire worse.

If you are in any doubt as to the seriousness of the situation, evacu-



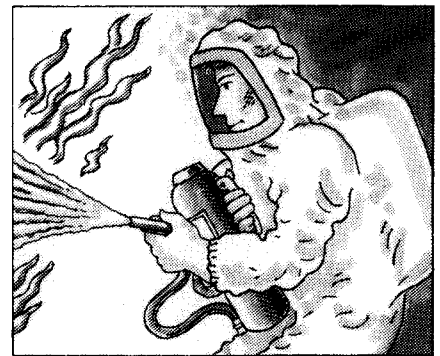
ate the area as quickly as possible, letting others know what has happened and closing the doors as you leave. Then, immediately find your supervisor or someone who is trained to handle this kind of emergency.

Go back into the room only if you've been trained and you are wearing the right Personal Protective Equipment. Do not go back in if you suspect an explosion. Some of the most serious accidents are caused by well-meaning coworkers trying to help when they are not trained to do so.

Quick, A Doctor!

In an emergency involving a flammable, get medical attention for the victims as soon as possible. You might save their vision, lungs, or even lives. Know the location of the nearest eyewash stations, safety showers, and fresh air sources. These are often the first medical treatments.

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Only someone who is trained should handle flammable emergencies.

Before You Begin

Read, listen, learn and ask *before* you begin working with these chemicals. Use common sense and quick thinking. This is the best way to protect yourself and your coworkers.



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