# SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

## Flammable and Combustible Liquids

Flammable and combustible liquids are present in nearly every workplace. Gasoline, diesel fuel and many common products such as solvents, thinners, cleaners, adhesives, paints, waxes and polishes may be highly flammable or combustible. And if used or stored improperly, these types of liquids can cause serious injury or death.

To understand the dangers of flammable and combustible liquids, it is important to know that it is the vapor, not the liquid, that burns. For instance, an explosion can occur when a worker drains a gasoline tank and begins repairs involving welding or brazing on the tank. Although the tank is empty, it contains gasoline vapors. If the vapor concentration is within the explosive range and a source of ignition is introduced, an explosion can easily occur.

#### **Safety Precautions**

The following work practices must be followed when handling flammable and combustible liquids:

- Use Class I flammable liquids (any liquid that can ignite at less than 100° F) only where no open flame or other ignition source is in the path of the vapor.
- Remember that welding, flame cutting and soldering, and other flame-, heat- or spark-producing work is not allowed within 25 feet of liquid use and storage areas.
- Never smoke in storage and handling areas of combustible and flammable liquids, or in a 25-foot radius around these areas.
- All containers must be properly labeled and marked with the complete chemical name.
- All containers must be metal, sealed with a cap or lid, and not damaged or leaking.
- Don't store flammable liquid containers next to exits, aisles, stairways or doors—even for a brief time.
   Flammable containers may also not be placed where they can interfere with the exit from an area or building in an emergency situation.
- Dispense flammable and combustible liquids with approved pump or metal self-closing faucets only.
- Do not transfer liquid unless a worker who is trained to stop the transfer in the event of a spill is present.
- When transferring flammable liquids from one container to another, the two containers must be connected by a conducting wire and one container must be grounded.
- Maintain access to fire extinguishers and other emergency response equipment at all times. At least one fire
  extinguisher must be located within 10 feet of any flammable and/or combustible liquid storage area, and within
  50 feet of a flammable liquid use area.

## **Spray Paint Hazards**

Spray painting is an efficient and effective way to cover large areas or irregular surfaces with even coats of primer, paint, sealers and other coatings. When you are using spray paint, it is important to recognize and guard against potential hazards.

### Why it is Dangerous

Many paints, coatings, catalysts, sealers, hardeners and solvents contain hazardous chemicals to which you could be exposed during mixing, spraying, grinding and sanding tasks. Overexposure can cause nausea, rash, asthma, dermatitis or even lung cancer. In addition, some coatings contain flammable substances, which are released into the air when you use high-pressure equipment. As they build up, these vapors can create an explosion hazard. To protect yourself from these and other health hazards, study the following guidelines to safe spray painting practices.

## **General Recommendations**

- Use a spray booth to avoid breathing in spray paint vapors and debris. Regularly maintained and cleaned spray booths also provide maximum protection against explosion hazards.
- To protect your eyes, wear safety glasses and a dust mask or respirator to protect against dust particles that form when using grinding and sanding equipment.
- Store paints and their solvents carefully in ventilated, nonsmoking areas to prevent the possibility of ignition and explosion.

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