



Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

Topic C037: Flammable & Combustible Materials

Introduction: On any given workday, at any typical workplace, many types of flammable or combustible liquid materials may be encountered. Many people are killed or injured on the job each year due to fires or explosions caused by unsafe handling and storage of volatile liquids. Fuel for generators, compressors, and other powered equipment along with solvents, spray sealants, and preservatives are extremely hazardous when used in an unsafe manner. OSHA defines flammable, combustible, and flashpoint as follows:

Flammable means capable of being easily ignited, burning intensely, or having a rapid rate of flame spread.

Flammable liquids means any liquid having a flash point below 140° F. and having a vapor pressure not exceeding 40 psi (absolute) at 100° F.

Combustion means any chemical process that involves oxidation sufficient to produce light or heat.

Combustible liquids mean any liquid having a flash point at or above 140° F. and below 200° F.

Flash point of the liquid means the temperature at which it gives off vapor sufficient to form an ignitable mixture with the air.

All fire extinguishers must be fully charged, in their designated places, and serviced at least annually with service records retained through the year. Ensure that all employees are trained on the use and aware of the location of the fire extinguishers.

Follow these safe work practices when handling or storing flammable and combustible materials:

All spills of flammable or combustible liquids must be promptly cleaned up.

Combustible scrap, debris, and waste materials must be stored in covered metal receptacles and removed from the worksite promptly.

Proper storage methods must be used to minimize the risk of fire and spontaneous combustion.

Approved containers and tanks shall be utilized for the storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids.

Flammable liquids shall be kept in closed containers when not in use.

Storage lockers and cabinets must be of the approved type and shall be labeled in conspicuous lettering, "**Flammable – Keep Fire Away**".

Withdrawal and transfer of flammable or combustible liquids must be performed by trained personnel.

Approved "safety cans" must be used for dispensing flammable or combustible liquids. ("Safety can" means an approved closed container, of not more than 5 gallons capacity, having a flash-arresting screen, spring-closing lid, and designed to safely relieve pressure when subjected to heat.)

Liquefied petroleum storage tanks shall be guarded to prevent damage from vehicles or equipment.

All solvent wastes and flammable liquids must be kept in fire-resistant, covered containers until they are removed from the worksite.

Fuel-gas cylinders and oxygen cylinders must be separated by distance, fire-resistant barriers, or other means while in storage.

Fire extinguishers must be provided for the type of materials they extinguish, and placed in areas where they may be used.

All fire extinguishers must be fully charged, in their designated places, and serviced at least annually with service records retained through the year.

Where sprinkler systems are permanently installed, the nozzle heads must be directed or arranged so that water will not be sprayed into operating electrical switchboards and equipment.

NO SMOKING signs must be posted in areas where flammable or combustible materials are used or stored.

Conclusion: Proper handling and storage practices for flammables and combustibles reduce the risk of fires and explosions. For everyone's safety, all workmen exposed to volatile material must be thoroughly trained in fire prevention and suppression.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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_____	_____	_____
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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.