



Toolbox Talk

Topic: Flammable Liquid Storage

Fire can destroy property, delay projects and in some cases, endanger lives. Common flammable liquids on job sites include, form oil, spray paint, combustion engine liquid fuels and petroleum-based lubricants. It's important to note the liquid itself is generally not flammable, but the vapor from the liquid is flammable. A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) must be available for all hazardous materials onsite. Any material with a flashpoint at or below 199.4 F is considered flammable.

There are several precautions to consider, here are a few of the basics:

- Flammable liquids must be stored in tanks or closed containers.
- No more than 60 gallons of liquids with flash points at or below 140 F may be stored in a cabinet.
- Flammable liquid containers must be covered or closed at all times as well as the storage cabinets where materials are kept.
- Safety cabinets come in different colors and sizes. Choose different color safety cabinets for different materials for quick identification by workers and fire department personnel.
- Whenever possible, use the built-in ground lug to ground flammable liquid storage cabinets.
- Do not store flammable liquids under stairs or near areas of egress.
- Use warning signs and labels that clearly read: *Flammable – Keep Fire Away*.

Assign an employee with adequate fire hazard knowledge to perform a site evaluation to identify concerns.

- Move flammable liquids to the appropriate storage containers.
- Encourage employees ask for assistance if unsure if a liquid is flammable or not. The SDS should be consulted during this process.
- For bulk storage and disposal areas, make sure there is a spill pan or secondary containment beneath the storage tank or drum.
- Check for spill kits where flammables are used or handled. There must also be methods for disposal of soiled material.
- Ensure fire extinguishers are readily available on site.
- Remove combustible material like cardboard boxes from flammable liquid storage cabinets.
- Check cabinets and storage rooms for *Flammable – Keep Fire Away* warning tags and signs.
- Only 25 gallons or less of flammable liquids may be stored outside a cabinet.
- Ensure above ground bulk fuel tanks are protected from accidental damage and have secondary containment or spill protection.
- Create a list of needed safety supplies and share with management to ensure proper safety mechanisms are ordered and put in place.

