

TOOLBOX TALK 21/60

DATE:

TOPIC: WORKING WITH FUEL

OBJECTIVE: TO ENSURE WORKERS ARE AWARE OF THE DANGERS WHEN WORKING WITH FUEL



Easiest way to conduct and document your safety meetings!

→ Some things to know before you give your talk:



Even if it is only in fueling their vehicles to get to work, your crew comes in contact with Petrol and diesel in some capacity everyday. As supervisor, you need to warn them of the hazards of these fuels and the environmental pollution they can cause..

→ Diesel and petrol is extremely dangerous. Here's why.



Petrol Vapours will ignite at the surface at a temperature of -43 degrees Celsius



Vapours can travel significant distances and collect in low places



It will float on top of water. Water is useless as fire fighting material because it will spread burning gasoline, not smother it.



Other hazards often overlooked are health risks caused by inhaling the vapours or absorbing the liquid through the skin. Inhaling gasoline vapours causes depression of the central nervous system, like alcoholic intoxication.



Its solvent action on the skin can lead to contact dermatitis.



If spilled into water courses or near water courses, serious ground water pollution can occur

→ Fuel safety tips



Use fuel only as a motor fuel and as a mix for fire fighting drip torches! It is too dangerous to use as a cleaning solvent!



Handle fuel for refueling small fuel engine equipment only in approved flammable liquid safety containers equipped with:

Eliminate all sources of vapour ignition. This means:

- No smoking!
- Avoid static electricity buildup. Always connect portable containers to supply drums/tanks with a bonding wire during filling; always touch the safety container's dispensing hose to the fuel tank being filled before pouring or pumping gasoline.
- Do not refuel equipment while it is running. Shut off the engine and allow hot metal surfaces to cool enough so that you can touch them.
- Make sure you don't over-fill the tank.



Keep portable fire extinguishers near flammable liquid storage areas and equipment refuelling areas. In the plantation, the most practical fire extinguisher is a Multi-Purpose Dry Chemical type. It should be placed in areas that every one is familiar with.



Don't breathe fuel vapours unnecessarily. Keep containers and fuel tanks at least arm's length away.



Wear solvent resistant gloves. If your skin gets splashed with fuel, wash the area with mild soap and clean water.



If you clothing becomes saturated with fuel, remove it immediately. Contaminated clothing should be air dried before laundering.



Never carry flammable fuels whilst being transported. Transport them separately.



Never carry fuel in an unmarked container. Someone might mistake it for drinking liquids.



If you have a big spill you need to the Oil Spill Response Unit and treat the spill.



→ Try this for show and tell!



Even if it is only in fueling their vehicles to get to work, your crew comes in contact with Give a fire extinguisher demonstration and make sure everybody in the crew knows how to operate one.

→ Questions you can use to get them talking:



Can you use water to put out a petrol fire?



Has anyone ever had an accident – or know of one – involving diesel and petrol?

DO NOT USE PETROL OR DIESEL FOR CLEANING
sample warning sign

