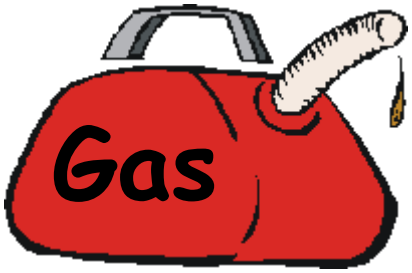

Caution-Gasoline

Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission/
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You're all familiar with the old story about the person who couldn't see if the gasoline tank was empty, and so he lit a match-and you know the rest.

Years ago, when this type of accident first started taking place, it was considered a pretty stupid thing to do. But even today, after years of tragic experiences and warnings, the same accident in some form or another is still relived many times each year. For instance, the only difference between a Molotov cocktail and a harmless container of gasoline is the state of mind of the person using it. Smoking or careless use of matches often turns a can of gasoline into a ball of fire.

Maybe these things bring to mind some unsafe acts you've been involved in when using gasoline. Maybe you thoughtlessly refueled a lawnmower without letting it cool first, or you left gasoline-soaked rags on the floor piled in a corner. Let's face it; when any of us do these things, we're just pushing our luck. You're probably aware that it's the gasoline vapors that burn and not the gasoline itself. The vapors, which are heavier than air, can collect in low areas. For this reason, basements, pits, and sumps should be kept well ventilated if gasoline is being used in the area.

Gasoline should be kept in an approved safety can which should be properly identified as to its contents. Any other flammables should also be marked so as to distinguished between them. Mixing of flammable liquids should be avoided, and never put flammables in a soft drink bottle or food container.

There are many ways gasoline can be ignited accidentally. A few of these sources of ignition are open lights, hot surfaces, sparks resulting from contact of metals, operation of electrical equipment, and discharge of static electricity. Smoking and matches, of course, are also common ignition sources.

Although not as serious a threat as fire, it is possible that certain toxic actions may result from inhaling gasoline fumes. In large amounts, the fumes can irritate mucous membranes and can also cause dizziness and headaches.

Now let's take a few moments to go over the basic safety rules concerning gasoline.

- First, there should be no smoking, spark sources or open flames, or open lights in areas where gasoline is used.

- Gasoline should not be used for cleaning purposes. This applies to cleaning your hands, equipment, clothing, and similar substances. A non-flammable or non-toxic solvent should be used instead.

- Gasoline should be kept in approved containers and identified.

- When fueling equipment, make sure that the engine has stopped and that all lights are out. If area of tank opening is hot, wait until it cools.

- Don't do a sloppy job of pouring. Keep the hose nozzle or can spout in constant contact with the rim of the tank opening. If you spill more than a few drops, flush it away immediately.

- When filling a container with a small opening, a funnel should be used to avoid spillage.

- I might add here that it's a good idea to keep at the job site only the amount of gasoline needed during your particular shift. Any that's left at the end of the shift should be returned to the designated storage area.

Just as flammables should be kept in the right containers, it is important to place cloth, paper, and other gasoline-soaked wastes in approved disposal containers, which are usually metal.

Gasoline is important to our way of life. We see it's importance in running our automobiles, boats, lawnmowers, and many other things. So let's keep it working for us and not against us. Treat it with caution and follow the safety rules we've just covered.

Date	Company Name	
Project Name	Meeting Location	Person Conducting Meeting

Items Discussed:

Problem Areas or Concerns:

Attendees:

Comments: