



Combustible
Liquids

eSafetyLine

Gasoline

Gasoline is probably the best known and most widely used of the flammable and combustible liquids. Gasoline is classified as a flammable liquid because it releases vapors that can catch fire at temperatures at or below 100°F. Because gas is found on just about every worksite and home, people tend to forget just how dangerous it is.

Many on a worksite have used gasoline to clean off their hands or a tool or piece of equipment. It's also common to have spilled a bit of gasoline while refueling an engine or to finish a smoke while filling a vehicle or container. Although these events "happen all the time", it doesn't change the fact that these behaviors are extremely dangerous and potentially deadly.

To help prove this point, here are some facts you need to know about gasoline:

- Gasoline itself doesn't burn; it's the vapors from the gas that burn. Gasoline is said to be very volatile which means it easily changes from a liquid to a vapor at low temperatures, as low as 45°F BELOW zero! This conversion to vapor happens more quickly at higher temperatures causing a heavier buildup of dangerous vapors.
- Gasoline vapors are denser than air. This means that they will sink and collect in the lowest point in an area; this usually means the floor. This can be prevented or at least minimized with effective air circulation which helps to get rid of the vapors.
- You don't need an open flame for gasoline vapors to catch fire. All that's needed is one spark and any gasoline vapors in the area will catch fire.

- Gasoline can be VERY irritating to the skin, causing a rash that could become infected. It is important not to use gas as a cleaner and to wash any skin that has come in contact with gasoline with water right away. If you get gasoline on your clothes it is necessary to change them immediately. By wearing clothes that are soaked with gasoline (even a small amount), you run the risk of becoming a human torch.

At this point, it should go without saying that gasoline should be treated very carefully and used only to power engines. To use it in any other way greatly increases your risk of being involved in a fire or explosion.

Discussion Questions

Does the liquid gasoline burn?

Why would you need to change your clothes when they get sprayed in gasoline?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/___

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date