



TOOLBOX TALK #24

Monday Morning Safety Reminders

Vol. 1 No. 24

PROPER HANDLING OF GASOLINE

Crude oil is pumped out of the ground. It is shipped to the refinery where a simple process involving 10,000 or so additives and a billion dollars worth of machinery produces gasoline. All of this is intended for a single use: motor fuel.

We use gasoline in our company vehicles and some equipment. We do not use gasoline for any other purpose. Gasoline is dangerous and it is unhealthy. Do not use it as a cleaning agent on your hands and tools. Everywhere you put gasoline, other than in an approved container or fuel tank, you create a potential fire hazard. It's important to understand that the gasoline itself isn't the fire hazard. The combustible hazard is the vapors from the gasoline. So, when you use gasoline to clean a tool, vapors will continue to rise from the tool until all of gasoline residue is evaporated.

Your skin doesn't like gasoline. If you get gasoline on your skin, wash the affected area thoroughly as soon as possible. Your skin will absorb the fuel so the sooner you wash the better. The fuel can irritate your skin, and cause a rash or infection. If you get gasoline on your clothes, change your clothes. You could become a walking fire hazard.

If you are working with gasoline-powered equipment, be sure to do so in a well-ventilated area. Gasoline should be stored in a well-ventilated area as well. Gasoline vapors are heavier than air and will collect at the lowest point in an area. If the vapors build up in an enclosed area, a single spark could result in a major news event. Don't store gasoline in anything other than an approved container, and mark those containers "gasoline" to make certain no one mistakes it for some other type of fuel.

Gasoline is another one of the common items we use every day, and it's easy for us to forget how dangerous it can be. Make sure we use it only as intended and in a safe manner.

Facilitator Notes: Point out to your crew the locations of any gasoline storage locations on the jobsite. Smoking around gasoline is an obvious hazard, but ask your crew if they understand that vapors – which they can't actually see – are the combustible hazard associated with this product, and that is why smoking should be kept well apart from any gasoline, and never in a storage area.

Additional Notes: _____

Crew Member Comments: _____

Presented By: _____

Date/Time _____

Attendees: _____

List additional attendees on back of sheet