



### COMBUSTIBLE AND FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

A flammable liquid is defined as any liquid having a flash point at or below 199.4° F (93° C) and having a vapor pressure not exceeding 40 pounds per square inch at 100° F (37.8 °C). There are four categories of flammable liquids. Category 3 liquids have flashpoints at or above 73.4° F (23° C) and at or below 140° F (60° C). A liquid with a flash point above 140° F (60° C) and below 199.4° F (93° C) is a Category 4 liquid. You will find both of these types of liquids on most construction sites. Two of the most common flammable liquids we use are gasoline and diesel fuel. Each has a flash point of less than 140° F (60° C).



Here are a few safety guidelines that you should remember when handling flammable or combustible liquids.

- Store and handle them in approved containers.
- Never smoke around these liquids. Post no-smoking signs on liquid petroleum tanks.
- While in storage, fuel gas cylinders and oxygen cylinders must be separated by a minimum distance of 20 feet or with fire-resistant barriers.
- Fuel storage tanks must be guarded to prevent damage from vehicular traffic.
- Fire extinguishers need to be properly distributed around the worksite and kept free from obstructions.

Are you trained in the use of each type of extinguisher? Do you use safety cans when dispensing flammable and combustible liquids? Do you have a plan to clean up spills properly and promptly? Plastic milk cartons and glass bottles are not approved containers for these liquids. Are all flammable or combustible liquids you use in approved, closed containers when not in use?

OSHA requirements state that “no more than 25 gallons of flammable or combustible liquids shall be stored in a room outside of an approved storage cabinet.” Further, “no more than 60 gallons of flammable or 120 gallons of combustible liquids shall be stored in any one storage cabinet. Not more than three such cabinets may be located in a single storage area.” Does storage of these liquids on your job site measure up?

Flammable and combustible liquids can be used safely. If you follow the above guidelines, no problems should arise. If you don't, you may go up in smoke!

*The information contained in this SHARP Toolbox Talk is intended as a guide for you to communicate basic safety information to your employees. It is not intended to provide you with all of the information relevant to this topic. MRCA has attempted to make this material as up to date as possible, but MRCA, its members, officers, employees, and members of the Operations and Safety Committee disclaim any responsibility or liability for the accuracy of the information contained herein. Please refer to the OSHA standards or your safety consultant for additional information related to this topic.*



# WEEKLY TOOLBOX TALK

Job Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_ Employee #: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Specific Topics: \_\_\_\_\_

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Crew Safety Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

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Reviewed M.S.D.S # \_\_\_\_\_ Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Attended By:

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Supervisor/Foreman Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

