Toolbox Talks – Flammable & Combustible Liquids

Recently, to dramatize the danger of hauling gasoline in the trunk of a car, a test was conducted using ONE gallon of gasoline inside a car trunk. The resulting explosion blasted the trunk lid, along with a huge fireball, some 80 feet into the air with a force that would have killed anyone in the car.

Since you can’t move fast enough to get away from an explosion, you had better do what is necessary to avoid one.

Handling flammable and combustible liquids is a common occurrence on construction projects. When you are the one who is handling them, do you follow the proper guidelines, or do you tend to ignore and underestimate the dangers? To fully understand the real dangers of these liquids, you must know the difference between them.

A FLAMMABLE LIQUID like gasoline, lacquer thinner, alcohol, some paint thinners, etc. are much more volatile. Their vapors can ignite below 100°F, even down to freezing and below.

A COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID such as fuel oil, kerosene, linseed oil, etc. must exceed 100°F in order to release enough vapors to ignite.

Whenever handling liquids in containers marked flammable or combustible, READ THE WARNING LABEL and remember, in addition to the danger of fire and explosion, there may be other serious health threats from these liquids—inhaling vapors, contact with skin, eyes, etc.

Listed safety containers are required for storing, handling and transporting of flammable or combustible liquids of any quantity.
Our safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are made solely to assist your organization in reducing hazards and the potential of hazards and accidents. These recommendations were developed from conditions observed and information provided at the time of our visit. They do not attempt to identify every possible loss potential, hazard or risk, nor do they guarantee that workplace accidents will be prevented. These safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are not a substitute for ongoing, well-researched internal safety and risk management programs. This report does not warrant that the property inspected and its operations are compliant with any law, rule or regulation.

United Heartland is the marketing name for United Wisconsin Insurance Company, a member of AF Group. All policies are underwritten by a licensed insurer subsidiary of AF Group.

### Items Discussed:

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### Problem Areas or Concerns:

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### Attendees (Signatures):

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### Comments:

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**Date** | **Company Name**
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**Project Number/Name** | **Meeting Location** | **Person Conducting Meeting**
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