



## GENERAL FIRE PRECAUTIONS

- 6 If fire occurs, personnel need to be able to escape quickly from its effects and reach a place of safety. Therefore it is important to have in place a plan of action in case of such emergencies. It covers:
- Escape routes to fire exits
  - Fire fighting equipment
  - Warning systems
  - Management procedures to ensure that systems are in place and maintained, and that there is adequate training in their use
- 7 **Procedure in the Event of a Fire:**
- a) Call the fire brigade immediately.
  - b) Evacuate all persons not concerned with fire fighting immediately.
  - c) Tell the fire officer where all containers are in the location of the fire, as soon as he arrives.
  - d) If it is safe, attempt to turn off any tap that will extinguish the flame. Remove cylinders from the danger area or cool them with water.
  - e) If the flames cannot be extinguished leave the fire fighting to the fire brigade.
  - f) If the flames come in contact with a container and neither the flame nor the container can be move, everybody must evacuate the area immediately.
  - g) **DO NOT** use any container that has been exposed to fire. Return them to the supplier or hire company.
- 8 Small quantities of flammable liquids may be transported in closed vehicles providing the vehicle is adequately ventilated. (Substantial quantities of flammable liquids must be carried in open vehicles).
- 9 Containers should be stored in the open air. If not practicable, they must be stored in adequately ventilated storerooms that meet the special requirements of the Health and Safety Executive.
- 10 **DO NOT** store flammable liquids below ground level or within 3 metres of drains, cellars or excavations etc. Flammable liquid vapour is heavier than air and gas will collect at the lowest levels.
- 11 Handle containers with care to avoid damage to the taps in particular. Use trolleys where possible.
- 12 **DO NOT** store (or use) containers in a horizontal position. It is very dangerous when the liquid leaks or enters the connecting hose.

- 13 **DO NOT** use a damaged container, especially if the tap is damaged or bent.
- 14 Before use the equipment should be sited away from sources of ignition and combustible materials. If this is not possible, the equipment should be protected using heat insulating screens.
- 15 There should be easy access to the container valve at all times.
- 16 **DO NOT** decant flammable liquids where there is a danger of ignition or explosion from external sources.
- 17 **DO NOT** smoke when refuelling. Never refuel with the engine running.
- 18 Replace the fuel caps securely on the engine and fuel containers. Wipe up any spillage immediately.
- 19 Fuel containers should be in good condition and leak proof.
- 20 **ENSURE** that animals are kept clear of the storage or work areas.
- 21 **If equipment is used in an enclosed area such as a room, caravan or site huts:**
- a) It is essential to have good ventilation at both high and low levels to prevent the build up of dangerous fumes from combustion or to prevent a build up of vapours in the event of a leak.
  - b) The containers should be located outside the enclosed space whenever practicable, preferably in the open air.
  - c) The number of containers must be kept to a minimum.
- 22 After use, turn off taps, protection caps/plugs should be replaced.
- 23 Empty containers always contain some residual liquid and should be stored in the same manner as full containers.
- 24 Faulty equipment should be taken out of service immediately.
- 25 **DO NOT** attempt repairs. Contact the Hire Company.
- 26 **In the event of a leakage from a container that cannot be stopped:**
- a) Move the container to a well ventilated open space free from sources of ignition.
  - b) Keep the leak uppermost. (usually at the tap) when both moving and leaving the container.
  - c) The container must be marked faulty and a notice should be displayed prohibiting smoking and other sources of ignition.
  - d) The area should be barricaded off to prevent access.
  - e) **DO NOT** attempt to dismantle or repair the defective container.
  - f) Contact the supplier immediately.



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