



# SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK

## FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



Company \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To encourage all of us to promote safety on a continuing basis, the Builders Exchange publishes a safety tip in each issue of the weekly Bulletin.  
The superintendent/foreman of each job should use this safety tip in a short safety meeting Monday morning.  
We suggest that this 5-to-10 minute meeting be just before lunch or perhaps right after the morning break.  
You can then emphasize the SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK all week long.

### Fuel for Thought: How to Safely Handle Gasoline

Week Ending 8/11/2023

Gasoline can be used on jobsites for some tools and equipment. Improper handling of gasoline increases the workers risk for serious injuries and even fatalities. This article offers employees gasoline safety tips to encourage safe handling of this necessary, but dangerous, product.

Most gasoline injuries are preventable if gas is properly used and safely stored. Here are some helpful gasoline safety tips from the American Burn Association that you can use to train your employees to handle gas with care:

- Don't smoke or use matches, lighters, or other ignition sources anywhere around gas. And remember that gas vapors can travel far from gas containers in enclosed areas.
- Use gasoline only in well-ventilated areas.
- Turn off equipment and let cool before filling the gas tank.
- Never use gasoline to start charcoal on a grill—use proper charcoal starter.
- Never use gas as a cleaning fluid or solvent—or to clean your hands.
- Don't store gas cans in your vehicle.
- Store gas in approved containers, in a cool, well-ventilated area (for example, in a shed or garage but never in the house), and only keep a minimum amount on hand.
- Never use glass or plastic bottles for gasoline storage.

#### If Someone Gets Burned

While gasoline does not burn, it is the gasoline vapors that burn. Burns, whether from gasoline or some other source, can be painful and sometimes need medical

attention. The American Burn Association recommends seeking medical attention for:

- Burns to the face, hands, feet, genital area, or major joints (knees, elbows, shoulders)
- Chemical and electrical burns
- Burns that cover a large area

Minor burns can usually be treated with first aid on the job or at home by flushing the area with cool water for a few minutes and covering it with sterile dressing from a first-aid kit. *Don't apply ointment, salves, creams, or ice to burns, and never break blisters.*

#### Even Breathing Gas Fumes Can Be Harmful

Gasoline can also be a health hazard if you inhale concentrated fumes for too long or get it on your skin. Symptoms of overexposure to gas vapors include:

- Respiratory problems such as coughing and trouble breathing
- Rash from skin contact with gasoline
- Irritation or burning in the eyes from gas splashes
- Dizziness
- Weakness, numbness in arms and legs, or burning sensation
- Rapid heart beat
- Nausea or vomiting

If an employee experiences any symptoms from inhaling gas vapors, he or she should get to fresh air immediately. If symptoms persist, the employee should seek medical treatment right away. If an employee becomes unconscious from breathing gas vapors, co-workers should call 911 immediately.

Special Topics for this Job: \_\_\_\_\_

MSDS # \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed – Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Present at Meeting:

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Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: These SAFETY TIPS OF THE WEEK are to help members provide a safe workplace and to instruct employees in ways to prevent accidents.  
Ensure you record the names of those who attend your safety meetings and file this form with your permanent accident prevention records.



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### Combustible para el pensamiento: Cómo manejar la gasolina de manera segura

Week Ending 8/11/2023

La gasolina se puede usar en los sitios de trabajo para algunas herramientas y equipos. El manejo inadecuado de la gasolina aumenta el riesgo de los trabajadores de sufrir lesiones graves e incluso muertes. Este artículo ofrece a los empleados consejos de seguridad de gasolina para fomentar el manejo seguro de este producto necesario, pero peligroso.

La mayoría de las lesiones por gasolina se pueden prevenir si el gas se usa correctamente y se almacena de manera segura. Aquí hay algunos consejos útiles de seguridad de gasolina de la Asociación Americana de Quemaduras que puede usar para capacitar a sus empleados para manejar el gas con cuidado:

- No fume ni use fósforos, encendedores u otras fuentes de ignición en ningún lugar cerca del gas. Y recuerde que los vapores de gas pueden viajar lejos de los contenedores de gas en áreas cerradas.
- Use gasolina solo en áreas bien ventiladas.
- Apague el equipo y deje enfriar antes de llenar el tanque de gasolina.
- Nunca use gasolina para encender el carbón en una parrilla, use un arrancador de carbón adecuado.
- Nunca use gas como líquido de limpieza o solvente, o para limpiarse las manos.
- No guarde latas de gasolina en su vehículo.
- Almacene el gas en recipientes aprobados, en un área fresca y bien ventilada (por ejemplo, en un cobertizo o garaje, pero nunca en la casa), y solo tenga una cantidad mínima a mano.
- Nunca use botellas de vidrio o plástico para el almacenamiento de gasolina.

#### Si alguien se quema

Mientras que la gasolina no se quema, son los vapores de gasolina los que se queman. Las quemaduras, ya sea por gasolina o alguna otra fuente, pueden ser dolorosas y, a veces, necesitan atención médica. La Asociación

Americana de Quemaduras recomienda buscar atención médica para:

- Quemaduras en la cara, las manos, los pies, el área genital o las articulaciones principales (rodillas, codos, hombros)
- Quemaduras químicas y eléctricas
- Quemaduras que cubren un área grande

Las quemaduras menores generalmente se pueden tratar con primeros auxilios en el trabajo o en el hogar enjuagando el área con agua fría durante unos minutos y cubriendola con un vendaje estéril de un botiquín de primeros auxilios. *No aplique ungüento, ungüento, cremas o hielo a las quemaduras, y nunca rompa las ampollas.*

#### Incluso respirar gases de gas puede ser dañino

La gasolina también puede ser un peligro para la salud si inhala vapores concentrados durante demasiado tiempo o si entra en contacto con la piel. Los síntomas de sobreexposición a vapores de gas incluyen:

- Problemas respiratorios como tos y dificultad para respirar
- Erupción cutánea por contacto de la piel con gasolina
- Irritación o ardor en los ojos por salpicaduras de gas
- Mareos
- Debilidad, entumecimiento en brazos y piernas, o sensación de ardor
- Latidos cardíacos rápidos
- Náuseas o vómitos

Si un empleado experimenta algún síntoma por inhalar vapores de gas, debe tomar aire fresco de inmediato. Si los síntomas persisten, el empleado debe buscar tratamiento médico de inmediato. Si un empleado queda inconsciente por respirar vapores de gas, los compañeros de trabajo deben llamar al 911 inmediatamente.

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