

Are You Handling Aerosols and Flammables Properly?

Improper use or storage of aerosols and flammable liquids presents a significant fire hazard. The resulting fires start easily and quickly, burn with great intensity, are difficult to extinguish, and can lead to a total loss.

Here are some highlights on the proper use and storage of aerosols and flammables:

1. While using flammable liquids and aerosols
 - Eliminate, or at least control, ignition sources. Enforce a “no smoking” policy within the area and near storage areas. Do not permit open flames (from cutting, welding, torching, portable heaters, etc.) near the flammables and aerosols. Eliminate electrical ignition sources (frayed cords, open electrical boxes or switch covers missing on live equipment, non-explosion proof electrical equipment, etc.) in the immediate area.
 - Provide adequate ventilation to prevent the buildup of explosive vapors
 - Provide an adequate number of portable fire extinguishers. Refer to the National Fire Protection Association standards for the right type of extinguisher to be used in certain areas.
 - Follow proper housekeeping procedures. Weekly inspections of high hazard areas where flammable liquids and aerosols are used and stored are recommended.
2. The storage of flammable liquids and aerosols
 - Keep a minimum of flammable liquids and aerosols at the facility.
 - To prevent fires resulting from spontaneous ignition, properly store or dispose of rags and papers soaked with the flammable liquid. Rags that are wet (especially with drying oils), partially burned or charred, are especially dangerous. Store rags in cool, dry, enclosed places and avoid contamination with drying oils.
 - Store bulk quantities of flammables and aerosols at least 25 feet from all buildings and important yard storage in a secured shed, cabinet or trailer.
 - When kept inside the facility, store flammable liquids, aerosols and soiled rags in storage cabinets, portable containers or trash cans approved by Underwriter’s Laboratory (U.L.). A U.L. sticker appears on items that have been approved. If large amounts of flammable liquids or aerosols are needed to be kept on site, then a minimum 2 hour cut-off room with adequate sprinkler protection, ventilation, electrics, containment, etc. will be needed. Take care to properly ground and bond

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the containers and ensure that you have dispensing faucets, pumps, and drip cans approved for the intended use.

- Store aerosols products in containers like those discussed above, or at a minimum, keep them in a chain link enclosure constructed of at least 9 gauge wire with a minimum of 2 inch wire mesh.

Follow these basic guidelines to start a program for the proper use and storage of flammable liquids and aerosols. Contact professional loss prevention services for a complete review. Great American makes data guides and on-site prevention surveys available to current insureds of Great American Insurance Companies. Contact your agent or Loss Prevention Consultant to obtain data guides on any of the following related topics:

- Safe Storage & Disposal of Combustible Materials (F.13360)
- Effective Grounding and Bonding of Flammable Liquid Containers (F.13399)
- Flammable Liquid Containers (F.13429)
- Safe Storage & Handling of Flammable Liquid Drums (F.13475)
- Storage Cabinets for Flammable and Combustible Liquids (F.13487)
- Aerosols Products Fire Hazards and Controls (F.13548)
- Housekeeping (F.13571)

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to simply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued.
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