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# Storage & Handling of Flammable Liquids

## Your Top 10 Safety Tips

### PREVENTING MAJOR CAUSES OF INDUSTRIAL FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS

Improper storage and handling of flammable chemicals, along with failure to recognize and control ignition sources, account for many of the catastrophic accidents involving flammable liquids. Almost every manufacturing facility contains flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, alcohol, solvents or propane. Vapors from these liquids will explode if they come into contact with an ignition source. However, with the proper level of training, respect and caution you can maintain a safe workplace.

### YOUR TOP 10 SAFETY TIPS

- 1 Make sure all flammable liquids are stored and handled according to OSHA and NFPA procedures
- 2 Keep ignition sources as far away as possible for flammable liquids
- 3 Know your chemical —consult the safety data sheets (SDSs)
- 4 Storage tanks must have emergency venting to relieve excessive pressure caused by exposure to heat
- 5 Avoid storing flammable liquids on high shelves or in direct sunlight, and only store in well ventilated areas
- 6 Use fire-resistant storage cabinets to protect the contents inside and keep the contents from contributing to a fire
- 7 Post “No Smoking” and warning signs where liquids are stored
- 8 Take only what fuel you need, and clean up spills immediately
- 9 Keep liquids segregated by type and store according to codes
- 10 Put oily rags and trash in properly closed metal containers that are emptied daily to avoid combustion fires

**BONUS TIP:** Ground bulk drums containing flammable liquids and bond them to containers before dispensing.

# 48%

OF INDUSTRIAL FIRE DEATHS  
ARE CAUSED BY IGNITION OF  
FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

# 1400

INDUSTRIAL FIRES ANNUALLY  
ARE CAUSED BY IGNITION OF  
FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

# 1

GALLON OF GAS VAPORS  
EQUALS THE FORCE OF 20  
STICKS OF DYNAMITE