

Vehicle Fuels

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: The amount of plant operating on most sites will result in the use of large quantities of fuel, all of which create hazards.

Why: By being aware of the risks, the chance of an accident occurring can be reduced or eliminated.

Outline: This talk will cover the hazards created by different fuels and the precautions necessary.



Petrol

- Usually, only small plant such as disc cutters and chainsaws now run on petrol.
- Petrol fumes are highly flammable – only refuel plant in well ventilated areas.
- Up to 20 litres of petrol only should be stored on site.
- Petrol must only be stored in purpose designed containers – 10 litres maximum.
- No smoking in areas where petrol is stored or decanted.

Diesel

- There are no storage restrictions for diesel fuel.
- Protective gloves should be worn when handling diesel oil because skin contact can result in irritation leading to dermatitis and infection.
- As an oil, spilt diesel will cause a slipping hazard on hard surfaces.
- Diesel oil should be stored in metal cans which should be kept in a lockable store.

Q: How do you reduce the chance of diesel oil spillage when refuelling plant?

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

NOTES

Vehicle Fuels

- LPG is used mainly as a fuel for small plant vehicles such as dumpers and forklift trucks.
- Cylinders are of special construction and designed to be mounted on their side.
- Cylinder connectors and other unions have a left-hand thread.
- Always use the correct size of spanner for tightening or loosening connections; hand tight connections will allow leaks.
- LPG vapour is heavier than air; leaks will accumulate at floor level if not allowed to disperse

Q: What arrangement should be made for the storage of LPG cylinders?

Q: How can you prevent the accumulation of leaking LPG at floor level?

- LPG vapour is highly flammable and must be kept away from sources of heat, naked flames and sparks (including electric sparks).

Q: What type of fire extinguisher should you have for hot works using LPG?

- Note to supervisor: Now inform your workforce of the company policy regarding the safe storage of vehicle fuels.

Do you have any questions for me?

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>
<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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