

Fuel Storage

Fuel can refer to many different things. In this tool box talk we use the term fuel to refer to liquid fuels such as petrol and gas oil.

The most commonly found fuels and oils on site are diesel and petrol [for engines], oils [gearboxes, hydraulic systems].

Poor storage, lack of care during refuelling, vandalism and poorly maintained plant can all result in a spillage.

A spillage could become expensive if not cleaned up, pollution can cause the likelihood of prosecution and a large fine.

There are three main hazards associated with fuel. These are:

- Environmental pollution caused by spills
- Fire
- Skin disease

By making sure we follow a few simple rules we can avoid harming ourselves or others when handling and storing fuels.

Fuel should always be stored in metal containers. If more than 200 litres are to be stored then the storage area must be double bunded however it is good practice to store fuels in bunds regardless of the amount of fuel stored. Bunds must be monitored to make sure that they don't fill up with water or fuel.

The area immediately surrounding the fuel storage area should be designated as 'no naked flames'. This includes smoking.

Clean out drip trays regularly to stop overflowing of possible contaminates.

Report all spillages to your Supervisor. Always return containers to a bunded area after use.

It is also important to keep the area around a fuel storage area clean, tidy and free from combustible materials.

When fuel is being discharged a spill kit mat should be used wherever possible. This will mean any small spills are caught by the mat.

Whenever fuel is being handled you should wear gloves. If any fuel is splashed on your skin then make sure you wash it off immediately.

If a spill does occur then the appropriate spill kit should be placed to absorb the spill.

Any contaminated spill kit material needs placing in the blue bag provided and placing in the appropriate waste container ready for disposal.



Q. What are the three main hazards of fuel?'

Q. What type of containers should fuel be stored in?

Q. What should you wear when handling fuel?