

## What Happened?

Whilst opening a metal jerry can to refuel a petrol saw, an operative was struck in the face by a quantity of pressured petrol. The can is understood to have become pressurised subsequent to initially being overfilled, exacerbated by extremely hot weather conditions.

## Guidance and Actions – what you need to do

Petrol (and diesel) contain substances that may cause cancer. Care should be taken to ensure vapours are not breathed in and liquids are kept off the skin. In addition to being highly flammable, petrol can be extremely hazardous to health, especially if ingested in quantity or breathed in at high concentrations.

The nominal capacity of a portable container is the maximum volume of liquid the container is intended to hold at 20 °C, i.e. no greater than 10ltrs if made of plastic, or no greater than 20ltrs if made of metal.

Overfilling containers (whether made of plastic or metal) can later lead to the expulsion of pressurised liquid when opened, this can easily lead to an injury if not a fire or explosion.

When re-filling containers/canisters, you must ensure to leave 10-15% of the nominal capacity (maximum volume of liquid the container would hold if filled to the brim). This will allow space for the petrol to expand, e.g. where the container may be exposed to heat gain.

Place container on the ground and fill slowly to avoid overflow and spillages.

Only purpose made containers and lids should be used. When sealing, check the lid seals securely to prevent the escape or leakage of liquid or vapour.

Fuel containers should be stored in a designated, secure, bunded and well ventilated location which will prevent any significant degrading occurring from ultraviolet radiation.

When handling any fuel storage container, check for signs of leaks, wear or damage (including unsteadiness when placed on flat surface - If you notice any damage, report it to your supervisor immediately.

When opening a metal jerry can, position yourself handle side of the can with the nozzle facing away from you. Grasp the handle with one hand, twist up and pull the securing pin (if fitted) with the other. Whilst still maintaining a hold of the handle, lift the latch 'away from yourself,' then secure back down into place.

- Dispose of any single use or contaminated gloves immediately after use.
- Prevent any spills further spreading by placing down spill kit booms and mats.
- Clear up spills promptly with the use of spill kit absorbent granules.
- Contaminated granules must then be swept and bagged up after and disposed of as COSHH waste.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after use, especially before eating, smoking or even using the lavatory.
- Never clean your hands with concentrated cleaning products, solvents or fuels.
- Check your skin regularly for dryness/soreness, if you notice any symptoms notify your line manager.

DATE ISSUED

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Subject ..... Duration (minutes).....  
 Site/Contract..... Date.....  
 Talk given by..... Signature.....  
 Start Time..... End Time.....

I hereby acknowledge that I have attended, received and understood the above-mentioned lesson specific guidance talk.

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	
HSQE ALERT	HSQE BULLETIN	GOOD PRACTICE