

What Happened?

Whilst opening a metal jerry can to refuel a petrol saw, an operative was struck in the face by 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



Flammable



Toxic



Chronic



Environmental



Petrol is a substance many of us handle regularly whilst at work, yet it can be extremely hazardous if not stored or handled appropriately. It is volatile (explosive), extremely flammable whilst in both liquid and vapor forms in addition to being hazardous to the environment.

Petrol is also hazardous to the human body and poses a number of risks in both acute (symptoms which change or worsen rapidly) and chronic (develops and worsens over an extended period of time) forms. In addition to being Toxic (poisonous), Petrol is classified as Carcinogenic so can cause cancer.

Petrol can be absorbed into the body via contact with your eyes or by prolonged and / or repeated exposure to your skin. It can also enter your bloodstream through open cuts, sores or abrasions, as well as producing vapors which are easily inhaled. If swallowed or ingested in large quantities Petrol can be fatal

There are various ways Petrol can enter the human body which can cause damage to vital organs through prolonged and repeated exposure. Contact with the skin can lead to users suffering irritation if not a more severe form of dermatitis such as red, itchy, flaky, scaling or blistering to the skin.

Prior to using or being exposed to any substance at work, a COSHH Assessment must be conducted. This also applies to processes (such as heating something up) which subsequently omit a dust, fume, vapor, mist or gas which is hazardous to health. The assessment will also identify if they are any WELs (workplace exposure limits).

You must receive a COSHH briefing prior to being exposed to any substance. This will explain how it may harm you, any precautions that must be taken, any limitations that apply, any specific PPE that should be worn, what to do if you accidentally get it on your skin or in your eyes etc.

DATE ISSUED

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

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