

## **TOOLBOX TALK #22**

### **FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS**

Did you know?

Flammable liquids are required to be stored in approved glass, plastic or metal containers.

Here's why: Flammable liquids (such as fuels, solvents and cleaning products) can ignite with explosive force, causing extensive property damage and/or injury, disability or death to anyone nearby.

If you'll be handling flammable liquids at work, follow these tips:

- Don't completely fill a container. Instead, fill it to 80% capacity. So, for example, if the container is labeled at one gallon, only put a maximum of one gallon into it, even if the true capacity of the container may be 1.3 gallons. Leaving a vapor space in the can will allow the liquid to expand when the temperature changes. An explosion could result if the container is completely full.
- When transporting a flammable liquid, place the container in the bed of a pick-up truck or the truck of a car – never in the passenger compartment.
- Store flammable liquid cans in a fireproof cabinet or storage locker when not in use. On construction sites, the rule is no more than 25 gallons of flammable liquids are to be stored inside a structure unless stored in an approved cabinet.
- Never smoke within 50 feet of a flammable liquid. Vapors, which are invisible, can travel away from the container and ignite.

If a fire does break out, grab the nearest fire extinguisher, aim the nozzle directly at the base of the fire and begin spraying.

