



Vehicle Fuels - TOOLBOX TALK

Prepare

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 and heavier than air - only refuel plant in well-ventilated areas.
- Up to 20 litres of petrol only should be stored on site in metal containers or 10 litres in plastic containers within a secure vented store.
- Petrol must only be stored in purpose-designed containers - metal - 20 litres maximum, plastic 10 litres maximum.
- No smoking in areas where petrol is stored or decanted.

Diesel

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

Refuelling

A safe area should be identified for fuel storage and plant refuelling.

It should be on a hard standing and provide a containment bund to hold any spillage or leak from storage.

The area must be defined as a No Smoking Zone and suitable fire fighting appliances should be available to use in the event of fire.

Suitable spill kits should be readily available to absorb and clean up any spillage. Personnel responsible for refuelling must be trained and deemed competent to carry out this work.

Large plant may require provision of a transfer pump to minimise spillage.

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

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)

1. 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.
2. Cylinder connectors and other unions have a left-hand thread.

3. Always use the correct size spanner for tightening or loosening connections; hand tight connections will allow leaks.
4. LPG vapour is heavier than air; leaks will accumulate at floor level if not allowed to disperse. Storage and refuelling location should be well clear of any surface water drains and excavations.
5. LPG vapour is highly flammable and must be kept away from sources of heat, naked flames and sparks (including electric sparks).

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

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

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

Do you have any questions for me?

