Diesel Fuel

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TOPIC: Diesel Fuel

Diesel fuel is commonly used in construction machinery, industrial machinery and generators.

There are three primary concerns associated with diesel fuel:

- ☑ Flammability: Diesel fuel is not nearly as flammable as gasoline or other common fuels (such as ethanol or propane) but it can catch fire and can be very difficult to extinguish. Do not smoke around diesel fuel.
- ☑ Skin Exposure: Diesel fuel can be absorbed through the skin very easily. It can cause skin irritation, redness and even burns. If the diesel is not cleaned off, it will adsorb into the skin and cause symptoms identical to inhalation.
- ☑ Inhalation: If diesel vapors are inhaled it can cause dizziness, nausea and increased blood pressure, among other symptoms.

What can you do to limit the harmful effects of diesel fuel?

- ☑ When fueling diesel powered vehicles or machinery, do so in a well ventilated area.
- ☑ If vehicles must be used indoors or in enclosed spaces, extra ventilation should be provided to remove diesel exhaust.
- ☑ Wear gloves when working with diesel! **Viton gloves** have been shown to be most effective in protecting against diesel exposure.
    - o DO NOT USE VINYL OR BUTYL rubber gloves with diesel, as they offer no protection.
- ☑ Maintain diesel vehicles and routinely check emission control devices.

Questions to Generate Discussion

- Diesel fuel is not as flammable as other fuels. Why should it be treated with the same caution as highly flammable materials?
- Why should we make efforts to protect our skin when working with diesel fuel?
- What areas of this workplace represent the greatest concern in terms of potential exposure to diesel exhaust?
- What can you do to help minimize diesel exposure in the workplace?

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

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