

Alaska Chapter NECA

July 19, 2004

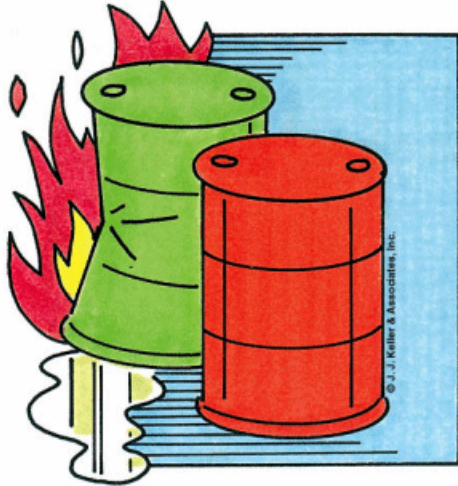
Alaska Chapter, NECA www.alaskaneca.org

Chapter Calendar

July 25	Golf Tournament
August 3	Anchorage JATC
August 10	Safety Committee 5:00PM
August 11	Board Meeting
October 16-19	National Convention
December 11	Annual Meeting

Tool Box Talks

August 02, 2004	Low Voltage, Indoors, Outdoors
August 09, 2004	MSD
August 16, 2004	OSHA Violations to Avoid, Part I, Part II
August 23, 2004	Portable Cords
August 30, 2004	Power Lines



Know the danger of flammable liquid vapors

Flammable liquids give off ignitable vapors; therefore, wherever flammables are located, workers must beware of ignition sources (even static electricity can ignite a flammable vapor).

In addition, nearly all flammable liquid vapors are heavier than air and will accumulate in low areas. These vapors are dangerous when they begin to accumulate. When they accumulate sufficiently, they spread and may eventually reach an ignition source. These ignition sources might be cigarettes, a hand tool that sparks, a cutting torch, or an operating motor.

Disposal

Disposing of waste flammable liquids requires as much caution in handling as do any of the other stages of use. Oily, solvent-soaked rags can easily start a fire. A pile of solvent-soaked rags builds up heat on its own—sometimes enough heat to start a fire. To prevent this, specially designed waste cans should always be used for temporary storage. These cans have spring-loaded lids and a raised bottom with vent holes to disperse heat. At the workstation, use approved safety drain cans or disposal cans to collect waste flammable liquids.

Spill cleanup

It is the vapors, rather than the liquid itself, that burn. When the liquid is spilled, vapor release begins immediately, and continues until the liquid is removed. Cleanup operations must begin at once.

Check with your supervisor or safety manager for information on spill cleanup procedures.

It's all hazardous: What's the difference?

What is the difference between a hazardous chemical, a hazardous substance, a hazardous material, and hazardous waste? If your job is to comply with environmental regulations under EPA, safety regulations from OSHA, and transportation requirements under DOT, you need to know the differences.

Hazardous chemical

Under EPA's chemical inventory reporting regulations in 40 CFR part 370, "hazardous chemical" means any hazardous chemical as defined under OSHA's regulations at 29 CFR 1910.1200(c).

OSHA's hazard communication standard at 29 CFR 1910.1200 defines "hazardous chemical" as any chemical which is a physical hazard or a health hazard.

In addition, OSHA's Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories standard in 29 CFR 1910.1450 defines "hazardous chemical" as a chemical for which there is statistically significant evidence based on at least one study conducted in accordance with established scientific principles that acute or chronic health effects may occur in exposed employees. The term "health hazard" includes chemicals which are carcinogens, toxic or highly toxic agents, reproductive toxins, irritants, corrosives, sensitizers, hepatotoxins, nephrotoxins, neurotoxins, agents which act on the hematopoietic systems, and agents which damage the lungs, skin, eyes, or mucous membranes.

Hazardous substance

EPA's community right-to-know regulations define "hazardous substance" as any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive. The term also includes any substance that has been designated by EPA to be reported if the substance is spilled in the waters of the United States or if otherwise released into the environment.

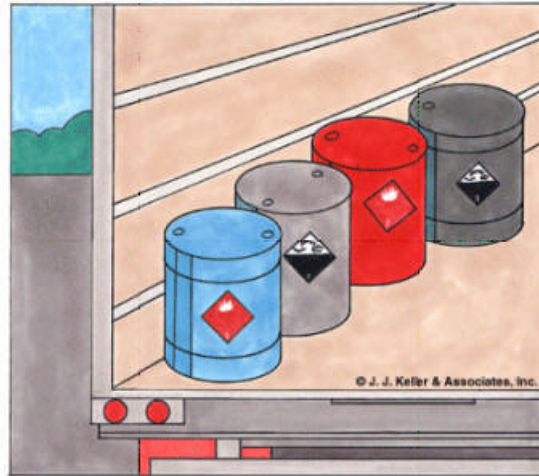
According to DOT Hazardous Materials Regulations at 49 CFR 171.8, a material, including a mixture or solution, is a hazardous substance if it:

- is listed in Appendix A to 49 CFR 172.101;
- is in a quantity, in one package, which equals or exceeds the reportable quantity (RQ) listed in Appendix A; and
- when in a mixture or solution is in a concentration by weight which equals or exceeds the concentration corresponding to the reportable quantity (RQ) of the material, as shown in the table in 49 CFR 171.8.

Under OSHA's hazardous waste operations and emergency response regulations at 29 CFR 1910.120, a hazardous substance means any substance designated or listed under this definition, exposure to which results or may result in adverse effects on the health or safety of employees:

- any substance defined under section 101(14) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA);
- any biological agent and other disease-causing agent which after release into the environment and upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation, or assimilation into any person, either directly from the environment or indirectly by ingestion through food chains, will or may reasonably be anticipated to cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutation, physiological malfunctions (including malfunctions in reproduction) or physical deformations in such persons or their offspring;
- any substance listed by DOT as hazardous materials under 49 CFR 172.101 and appendices; and

- hazardous waste, including a waste or combination of wastes as defined in 40 CFR 261.3, or those substances defined as hazardous wastes in 49 CFR 171.8.



Hazardous material

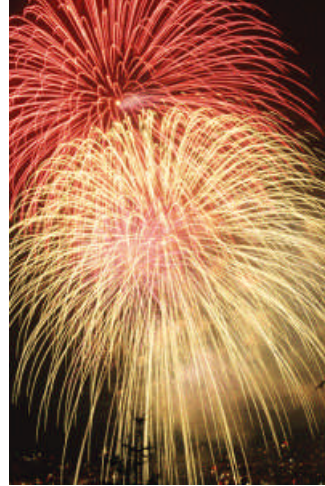
As defined by DOT for shipping purposes, “hazardous material” means a substance or material, which has been determined by the Secretary of Transportation to be capable of posing an unreasonable risk to health, safety, and property when transported in commerce, and which has been so designated. The term includes hazardous substances, hazardous wastes, marine pollutants, elevated temperature materials, materials designated as hazardous under 49 CFR 172.101 and 172.102, and materials that meet the defining criteria for hazard classes and divisions in 49 CFR part 173.

OSHA regulations also contain an entire subpart devoted to hazardous materials. Subpart H of 29 CFR Part 1910 includes requirements for compressed gases, flammable and combustible materials, process safety management, hazardous waste operations and emergency response, and several other topics. OSHA’s hazardous material regulations can be found in 1910.101 through 1910.126.

Hazardous waste

According to EPA, “hazardous waste” means a hazardous waste as defined in 40 CFR 261.3. In general terms, it means any solid waste that exhibits hazardous characteristics (flammability, corrosivity, toxicity, or reactivity) or is specifically listed by EPA as being hazardous.

For DOT shipping purposes, hazardous waste means any material that is subject to the hazardous waste manifest requirements of the EPA specified in 40 CFR Part 262.



Fireworks safety tips

Fireworks and celebrations go together, especially during the Fourth of July. But fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burn and eye injuries.

If fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

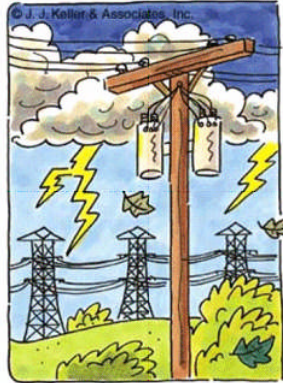
- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water in case of a malfunction or fire.

Lightning: Strike out this weather killer!

Lightning kills over 70 Americans each year. That's more than the annual number of people killed by tornadoes or hurricanes combined! However, the real story of lightning casualties is the survivors. Only about 10 percent of those struck by lightning are killed. Lightning injures about 1000 people in the U.S. each year. About 70 percent suffer life-long severe medical problems and 30 percent are debilitated and can't work for a living. In addition, lightning causes about \$5 billion of economic impact in the U.S. each year. While nothing offers absolute safety from lightning, some actions can greatly reduce the risks.

What is lightning?

Lightning is an electrical discharge that results from the buildup of positive and negative charges within a thunderstorm. When the buildup becomes strong enough, lightning appears as a "bolt." This flash of light usually occurs between the clouds and the ground. A bolt of lightning reaches a temperature approaching 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit in a split second. The rapid heating and cooling of air near the lightning causes thunder.



What are the myths and facts?

Myth: Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

Myth: Lightning only strikes the tallest object.

Myth: People inside a building are safe from lightning.

Fact: The power of a lightning bolt's electrical charge and intense heat can cause electrocution on contact, split trees, ignite fires, and cause electrical failures.

Fact: Most deaths from lightning occur on the East Coast of the U.S.

Fact: Approximately \$100 million in annual losses result from forest and building fires caused by lightning.

What are some lightning safety tips?

The 30-30 Rule offers the best lightning safety guidance for the general public. When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If that is 30 seconds or less, seek shelter. Then wait 30 minutes or more after the last lightning flash before leaving shelter. Here are some additional tips to protect you from lightning:

If indoors:

- Secure outdoor objects such as lawn furniture that could blow away or cause damage or injury. Take light objects inside.
- Shutter windows securely and brace outside doors.
- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for the latest storm information.
- Do not handle any electrical equipment or telephones because lightning could follow the wire. Television sets are particularly dangerous at this time.
- Avoid bathtubs, water faucets, and sinks because metal pipes can transmit electricity.

If outdoors:

- Attempt to get into a building or automobile.
- If no structure is available, get to an open space and squat low to the ground as quickly as possible. (If in the woods, find an area protected by a low clump of trees—never stand underneath a single large tree in the open.) Be aware of the potential for flooding in low-

lying areas.

- Kneel or crouch with hands on knees.
- Avoid tall structures such as towers, tall trees, fences, telephone lines, or power lines.
- Stay away from natural lightning rods such as golf clubs, tractors, fishing rods, bicycles, or camping equipment.
- Stay away from rivers, lakes, or other bodies of water.
- If you are isolated in a level field or prairie and you feel your hair stand on end (which indicates that lightning is about to strike), drop to your knees and bend forward, putting your hands on your knees. Do not lie flat on the ground.

If in an automobile:

- Pull safely onto the shoulder of the road away from any trees that could fall on the vehicle.
- Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rains subside.
- Avoid flooded roadways.

What if someone is hit by lightning?

A person who has been struck by lightning does not carry an electrical charge that can shock other people. If the victim is burned, provide first aid and call emergency medical assistance immediately. Look for burns where lightning entered and exited the body. If the strike caused the victim's heart and breathing to stop, give cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until medical professionals arrive and take over.



Classic TV Trivia

Question: *What was Fonzie's girlfriend Pinky's last name on the classic television series Happy Days?*

Answer: Pinky's last name was Tuscadero.