

HAZARD ALERT

PORTABLE FUEL CONTAINERS

October 2006

OBJECTIVE:

To inform persons of the fire risks associated with handling portable fuel containers and to recommend hazard management procedures.

BACKGROUND:

A recent incident has resulted in serious injury from flammable mixtures igniting.

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

- **Conduct and document a risk assessment of the use of portable fuel containers in your worksite**
Take into account:
 - the suitability of containers being used, filled or decanting from; are they in good condition and made of appropriate material that complies with AS2906 (should be marked on the container)
 - the labelling of containers
- **Develop a specific Safe Operating Procedure for the safe use of portable fuel containers.**
- **Take into account that static electrical charges are a dangerous source of ignition, capable of igniting the flammable mixture of petroleum vapours and air.**
- **Ensure that persons handling flammable liquids wear clothing to reduce static electricity, and shoes with conductive soles.**
- **When decanting to or filling portable containers to fill them on the ground.**
- **If transporting flammable liquids in a vehicle, ensure that it is done in accordance with dangerous goods transport requirements, and appropriate labelling is in place and fire extinguisher for flammable liquids is carried.**

FUTHER INFORMATION:

- **Contact your OHS Consultant or Catholic Safety Health & Welfare SA (8210 9346) if you require further information and/or assistance.**