

# HAZARD ALERT

## Melting Wax

4<sup>th</sup> April 2013

### REFERENCE:

WHS Act 2012, cl 19.

WHS Regulations 2012

CSH&WSA Document No. 14 – Hazard Management Procedure

CSH&WSA Document No. 19 – Management of Substances

### OBJECTIVE:

To eliminate risk of fires through melting wax (for candles) at worksites.

### BACKGROUND:

An incident occurred at a worksite where a staff member was melting wax in a pot on a stove. The stove was left unattended for about 10 minutes. When the staff member returned, the wax was on fire.

When melting wax without a double boiler, it can become so hot that it steams. The vapours can be harmful and in extreme cases can catch fire. It does not require any ignition spark to ignite steaming wax.

### PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

#### **IT IS RECOMMENDED WORKSITES DO NOT MELT WAX.**

- If the worksite is to perform this activity, a documented risk assessment must be completed.
- Ensure a fire blanket is accessible and a fire extinguisher is in close proximity (NOT water)
- Never leave melting wax unattended.
- Always use a double boiler. (refer to picture as an example).
- Use an electric stove.
- Always use a thermometer to monitor your wax temperatures.



**FOR ENQUIRIES OR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
YOUR WHS CONSULTANT**