

FLAMMABLE FUEL SPILL (LIQUID OR GAS)

Purpose:

To establish guidelines for the handling of flammable fuel spills (liquid or gas).

Guidelines:

- A. Upon Arrival:
 - 1. When approaching area, slow down or stop if necessary to assess any visible action taking place. It may be necessary to “stage” incoming units away from the scene.
 - 2. Attempt to determine hazardous area (flammable vapor area).
 - 3. Give a report on conditions and request additional equipment or special equipment, if needed.
 - 4. Request a representative from the Office of Emergency Management, Boone County to respond if the spill is over 25 gallons or whenever deemed necessary.
 - 5. Determine if rescue or evacuation problem exists.
 - 6. Formulate a plan of action based on initial size-up plan – plan of action must provide for:
 - a. Safety of personnel and citizens.
 - b. Evacuation of endangered area if necessary.
 - c. Control of situation.
 - d. Stabilization of the spilled material.
 - e. Disposal or removal of spilled material.
 - 7. Coordinate with law enforcement personnel for evacuation and traffic control.
- B. Safety:
 - 1. Avoid commitment of personnel and apparatus until a complete size up has been made.
 - 2. All personnel should be in full protective clothing and breathing apparatus.
 - 3. Keep all bystanders a minimum of 2000 feet away from the hazardous area.
 - 4. Remove all ignition sources in the hazardous area. This may mean closing a roadway.
 - 5. Some flammable liquids give off toxic vapor whether they are burning or not.
 - 6. If flammable liquid/gas is leaking from burning tank or cylinder, keep clear of the container ends. If the whistling sound from pressure relief valves on the container becomes louder evacuate the area, explosion is imminent.

7. In the case of a tank fire, fire streams must be used to cool the vapor area of the tank (area above liquid level).
 8. Do not extinguish tank or cylinder fire unless shut-off can be effected.
 9. If personnel must operate in a precarious position, they must be protected with another fire stream.
 10. Do not park apparatus in low areas – flammable vapors may have accumulated there.
- C. Confinement:
1. Unless immediate hazard to life is involved, any efforts to remove spill by flushing into any drainage system should be restricted. If a spill is flushed, it will have to be picked up downstream.
 2. Isolate the spill by the use of dikes and absorbent materials (i.e. sand, dirt or sawdust).
 3. Spill fires which are flowing to an area where they can burn safely should be allowed to do so.
 4. Direct spill away from exposures.
 5. The biggest problem with spills is containment of spilled material; the more water you add, the larger the containment problem becomes.
- D. Control:
1. Use fog streams to dissipate the vapors if possible, without disturbing the liquid.
 2. Determine if water can be used based on specific gravity of the spilled material.
 3. The use of foam (proper type) can prevent ignition of spilled material.
 4. Attempt to shut-off leak, shut-off valves, and/or plugging the container.
 5. Heavy streams can be used to divert flames from exposures. Burning fuel must be flushed from under and around tanks.
 6. Recover the fuel by absorption or use of vacuum trucks.