

Petrol, diesel and LPG

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Outline	This talk covers the hazards created by different fuels and the precautions necessary.



5-litre plastic diesel can



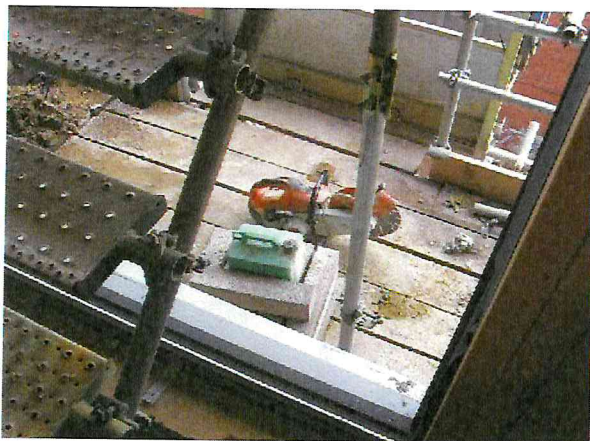
5-litre plastic petrol can



20-litre storage can



205-litre storage drum



Bad practice: you should only refuel a machine in the designated area



Do not bring petrol into timber-framed or enclosed buildings - use designated refuelling areas or, better still, another type of powered equipment.

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Petrol

1. Usually, only small plant (such as cut-off saws and chainsaws) run on petrol.
2. Petrol fumes are highly flammable – only refuel plant in designated, well-ventilated areas.
3. Do not store excessive quantities of petrol.
4. Petrol must only be stored in purpose-designed containers – 10 litres maximum (5 litres in a plastic container).
5. No smoking or other sources of ignition are allowed in areas where petrol is stored or decanted (transferred from one container to another).

Diesel

1. Diesel should only be stored at a designated refuelling point.
2. Protective gloves should be worn when handling diesel oil because contact with your skin can result in irritation.
3. Spilt diesel will cause a slip hazard on hard surfaces.
4. Diesel oil should be stored in bowsters, tanks, metal drums or cans in a secure bunded area.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)

1. LPG is used mainly as a fuel for small plant vehicles (such as dumpers and forklift trucks).
2. Cylinders for forklift trucks are of special construction and designed to be mounted on their side.
3. Cylinder connectors and other unions have a left-hand thread.
4. Use the correct size spanner for tightening connections; hand-tight connections will leak.
5. LPG vapour is heavier than air; leaked gas will accumulate at floor level or in drains if not allowed to disperse.
6. LPG vapour is highly flammable and must be kept away from sources of ignition, such as naked flames and sparks.
7. If there is a fire on site and gas cylinders are in the area, inform the emergency services so that they can react accordingly and evacuate the area.

Fuel storage

1. Storage areas must be secure, bunded where required, well-ventilated and away from sources of ignition and watercourses.
2. A spill kit should be available and fuel should be stored away from drains and watercourses.



How do you reduce the chance of diesel oil spillage when refuelling plant?
What should you do in the event of an emergency, such as a fuel spillage or fire?
What arrangements should be made for the storage of LPG cylinders?
How can you prevent the accumulation of leaking LPG at floor level?
What type of fire extinguisher should you have available for hot work using LPG?



Now inform your workers of the company policy regarding the safe storage of vehicle fuels.