



FIRES CAUSED BY HEATING UNITS

Gas-fired furnaces and oil-fired furnaces can be a major cause of fires and explosions. During the winter heating season, shop doors are closed leaving the building with less natural ventilation. Explosive vapors can build in a shop area very easily. When a furnace is operating, the furnace may draw explosive vapors through the burner and ignite the explosive fuel. Even though the heater may be turned off, the pilot light can be a major ignition source.

Common sources of fuels for explosions are: gasoline, liquefied petroleum gas (LP gas), painting applications, paint storage, and oxygen and acetylene tanks. Proper storage procedures would be as follows:

Gasoline – Gasoline should be stored in Underwriter Laboratories listed safety cans that have a screened pouring outlet with tight fitting cap or valve. This cover is normally closed by a spring, except when held open by hand, so that the contents will not be spilled if the can is tipped over. Spring-loaded valves provide an emergency vent when the cans are exposed to fire. Gasoline should be stored away from sources of ignition such as welding operations, grinding operations and heating units.

LP Gas – Portable LP gas tanks should be stored outside the building. When servicing LP gas vehicles, the container shut-off valve should be closed when vehicles are under repair except when the engine is operated. The vehicle should not be parked near sources of heat, open flames, or other sources of ignition. Working near inadequately ventilated pits should be avoided.

Painting – Painting should be conducted in an approved spray paint room, or spray paint booth. Paint over-spray, if not ventilated with an explosion-proof fan, is a major fire hazard.

Paint Storage – Paints and thinners should be stored in UL listed metal cabinets away from the spray area and any flame or spark-producing

Oxygen/Acetylene – Oxygen and acetylene should be stored separately and at least 20 feet apart, or separated by a noncombustible barrier at least 5 feet high. The barrier must have a fire-resistive rating of at least 1/2 hour.

Proper storage of flammable liquids should be inspected at your dealership on a daily basis. Monthly documentation should be maintained showing flammable liquids are being stored in their proper place, away from ignition sources.

TELL YOUR EMPLOYEES!