



Alcohol-based hand sanitiser warning

Reference	2020-013	Event Date	01 Jan 2020
Priority	Immediate	Helicopter Type	None Involved
Event Type	Personnel	OEM Notified	No
Event Category	Unclassified		

Synopsis

This report is in relation to a Company customer with an employee who used alcohol-based hand gel sanitiser, as per the current recommendations for COVID-19 personal hygiene requirements.

After application, but before the liquid sanitiser had fully evaporated and dried, the individual touched a metal surface where a build-up of static created an ignition source and the sanitiser ignited, resulting in an almost invisible flame on both hands.

The individual managed to extinguish the flames but was left with first and second degree burns (see picture).

Cause

Hand sanitiser gels contain concentrations of alcohol. Once the hand sanitiser is applied, individuals must make sure the gel has suitable time to dry.

In the interest of safety, remember that alcohol vapours can ignite if exposed to an ignition source, such as light switches or cigarette lighters.

Actions taken

- a. When using the alcohol-based hand gel sanitisers, ensure the gel is given suitable time to fully dry / evaporate
- b. Avoid touching any surface until the gel has fully dried. Any form of ignition source has the potential to cause the same issues as experienced by the individual.
- c. If unsure about using the alcohol-based sanitisers, washing hands with hot soapy water has the same effect as the hand gel



Image: Alcohol_based_hand_sanitisers_burns.png

