

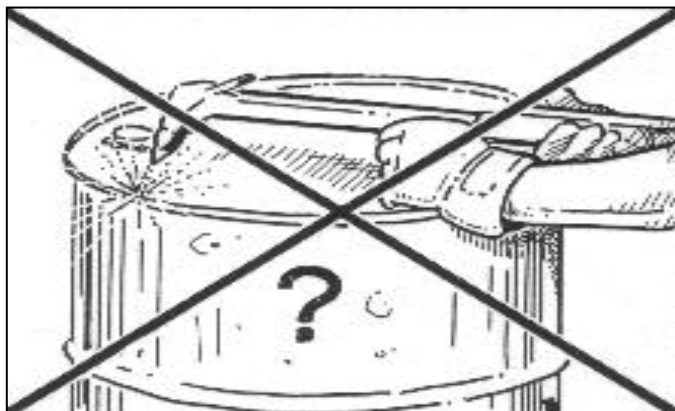
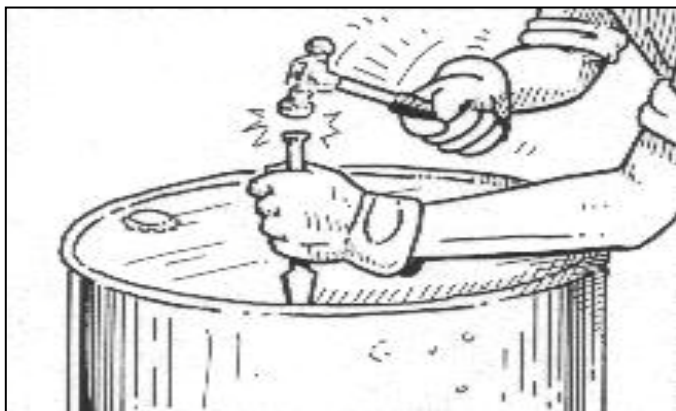
SAFE WORK

S
A
F
E

SPOT THE HAZARD
ASSESS THE RISK
FIND A SAFER WAY
EVERYDAY

No. 127
December 2010

Fire and Explosion Hazards – Small Tanks and Containers



Potential hazard:

Applying heat to any drum, tank, or similar vessel, without knowing exactly what is inside it, is a serious fire and explosion risk. It can lead to severe injuries or death, as well as major property damage.

How to control the hazard:

The risk of fires or explosions when applying heat to drums, tanks, or similar vessels can be eliminated by developing and implementing **safe work procedures**. Safe work procedures must include the following precautions:

1. Before applying heat to any drum, tank, or similar vessel, ensure that no flammable/explosive material is present within the vessel.
2. Never assume that any such container is clean or safe. Always double-check.
3. Procedures must be completed under the supervision of someone who understands the fire, explosion, and toxicity potential. Workers must be properly trained to carry out the necessary tasks.
4. If the safe removal of hazardous substances is not possible, repairs or alterations to the container by methods involving open flame or tools providing possible ignition sources **must not** be attempted.
5. Cleaning and “hot work” (see page two for more info) operations are not allowed on containers that have held unknown substances. If the source and content of the residual material in a container cannot be determined, and if chemical analysis cannot be performed, the container should be disposed of appropriately. For safe disposal, contact your local environmental disposal site.
6. Before starting your work, always check the material safety data sheet (MSDS) for the product and any additional requirements or precautions that must be taken.

(see over)

Workplace Safety and Health Division Contact Information:

Winnipeg: (204) 945-3446

Toll-Free: 1-866-888-8186 (Manitoba only)

24-Hour Emergency Line: (204) 945-0581

Publications/resources available at: www.safemanitoba.com

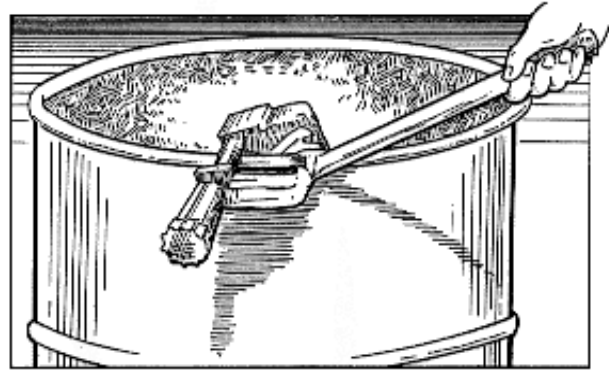


Hot Work

Hot work means any work that produces arcs, sparks, flames, heat, or other sources of ignition.

Employers must ensure that hot work is performed according to the Manitoba Fire Code.

Before any hot work begins, an employer must ensure that a container or piping that contains, or has contained, a flammable or explosive substance is purged using an effective removal method.



Drum de-header

Reference to legal requirements under workplace safety and health legislation:

- Fire and Explosive Hazards: Manitoba Regulation 217/2006 Part 19

Also see:

- Manitoba Fire Code

Additional workplace safety and health information available at: www.safemanitoba.com