

Spray Booth - Fire Safety



Victoria's Fire Services have identified an increase in fires involving spray booths in the motor body repair & manufacturing industries.

A high concentration of flammable vapour is usually present in spray booths. The following information is designed to assist workplaces using spray booths by identifying risks and hazards associated with this type of plant & equipment and providing potential solutions to reduce and manage those risks.

Common cause of fires in spray booths

Some of the common causes of fires as identified through available data and statistics are:

Improper use of electrical equipment, electrical faults & short circuits

Unsupervised and improper burning of waste materials

Improper use of welding equipment

Incorrect disposal of lit cigarette butts

Chemical reaction / spontaneous combustion between materials

Fire safety recommendations

The following recommendations to improve the level of fire safety:

- ▶ Occupiers should undertake an identification and assessment of all risks & hazards within the workplace
- ▶ A no smoking policy should be introduced inside buildings and proper cigarette butt receptacles be provided in outdoor designated smoking areas & away from building entrances
- ▶ Proper disposal of all waste materials
- ▶ Proper use and maintenance of welding equipment
- ▶ Proper use and storage of hazardous & dangerous goods
- ▶ Ensure electrical equipment is maintained and tested
- ▶ Dispose of chemically contaminated rags and waste in an appropriate manner
- ▶ Ensure the appropriate fire protection is installed and maintained
- ▶ All staff be trained in the use of fire protection equipment
- ▶ Ensure that an emergency management plan is in place and practiced regularly
- ▶ Provision of and an understanding of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- ▶ Use only intrinsically safe electrical devices
- ▶ Ventilate well before carrying out hot-work activities such as welding
- ▶ Regularly check and clean filters and exhaust fan assembly



For further information contact

CFA Dangerous Goods on (03) 9262 8444, or MFB Dangerous Goods (03) 9420 3866, or access the following websites – www.cfa.vic.gov.au, www.mfb.vic.gov.au, or www.worksafe.vic.gov.au

