

13<sup>th</sup> August 2009

No: IGS 203

## Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

### Graffiti using Hydrofluoric Acid



#### Purpose of brief:

Graffiti vandals have been using Hydrofluoric Acid (HF) to burn their "tags" (names) into glass surfaces.



Bingo Dabber

Acid etching is a form of graffiti that has started to show up in the UK. This brief is intended to inform staff of potential issues surrounding the use of substances to acid etch glass. In many cases, the etching acid (containing the hydrofluoric acid and other harmful substances) is transferred into empty bingo dabbers or large markers wrapped in masking tape. It is extremely corrosive and serious injuries may occur if it comes into contact with your skin. HF will continue to burn into your skin, even if you think you have washed it off.

#### Action to be taken

If staff feel suspicious of any container, bingo marker or similar, or if they identify an area of "tagging" or "etching" on glass similar to the first picture, above, then they MUST REPORT this to their Line Manager and request support in dealing with the issue. Under no circumstances should staff attempt to clear up the receptacles.

Staff who have recently worked on similarly "tagged" surfaces, who become aware of a burning sensation should attend hospital immediately and inform the hospital that they may have come into contact with Hydrofluoric acid and/or Nitric acid.

Issued by Martin Frobisher, Head of Infrastructure Maintenance Safety & Compliance ([martin.frobisher@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:martin.frobisher@networkrail.co.uk))