

Safety Alert



Alcohol based hand sanitiser - vehicle fires

Scope: **Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

Ref: NRX20-04

Date: 24/06/2020

Location: National



This information was a hoax. Hand sanitiser would not explode inside a vehicle during periods of hot weather. Comparators for safe storage of other flammable materials would include petrol in petrol cans for generators, and petrol or diesel in car fuel tanks. This is all safe.

Overview

This is to alert all colleagues to the potential fire risk in vehicles, caused by alcohol-based hand sanitiser. There have been several reports of hand sanitiser being the cause of fires when left in vehicles in the hot weather the UK is currently experiencing.

As the alcohol hand sanitiser heats up in its container it releases flammable vapours. These vapours are reaching their flashpoint and then ignite in normal air conditions, setting fire to flammable components within the vehicle

To prevent this from happening, ensure you remove all alcohol-based hand sanitising products from vehicles when they are not occupied. Do not leave hand sanitiser in unattended vehicles.

You should continue to use hand sanitiser as part of your hygiene routine where you cannot use soap and water.

Please remember: Hand hygiene is one of the most effective methods to stop the spread of COVID-19 following indirect contact.

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