Flammable Storage

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the [Occupational Safety web page](http://www.ehs.iastate.edu).

**General Information**

Flammable liquids are commonly found in shops or labs across campus. They are a necessity for many functions, but also come with potentially unrealized risks.

**Precautions**

- Flammable storage containers should be kept closed, labeled, and in good condition.
- Flammable liquids should only be used in well-ventilated areas.
- Do not store flammable liquids near an ignition or heat source.
- Ensure equipment and objects are grounded prior to using flammable liquids, including static electricity on yourself.

**Storage Requirements**

- If there are more than 10 gallons present, they need to be stored in an NFPA-approved flammable storage cabinet.
- Flammable liquids cannot be stored in a typical refrigerator.
  - If cool/cold storage is required, an explosion proof refrigerator/freezer should be used and labeled as such.
- Up to 5 gallons of flammable liquid can be stored in approved safety cans meeting the following requirements:
  - Constructed of steel
  - Contain spring-loaded caps
  - Equipped with a metal surface flame arresting screen
  - Received no modification from manufacturer’s design

**Resources**

- [EH&S Chemical Storage Guidelines](http://www.ehs.iastate.edu)
- [EH&S Flammable Liquids](http://www.ehs.iastate.edu)

**Discussion Date:**

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**Supervisor:**

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**Participants:**

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