

NTPC Health & Safety Alert

Storage of Combustible Materials



Background

In a recent incident, after a work vehicle was left to idle a worker noticed the vehicle's cab was filled with smoke. The worker turned off the engine and discovered a smoldering rag that had come into contact with the vehicle's exhaust manifold. Upon removal the rag caught on fire, but was extinguished.

Practical Guidance

It is not uncommon for people to store a rag under the hood of a vehicle for easy access when checking engine oil. This practice is dangerous as it can present a fire hazard if the rag comes into contact with a hot surface.

Proper storage of combustible materials is an important part of fire prevention, especially around potential ignition sources (e.g., open flames, hot surfaces, sparks, etc.).



Always store combustible materials in appropriate containers and away from ignition sources. And never store rags under the hood. Refer to *SWP: 1.04: Fire Prevention* for more information on fire hazards.