

# SAFETY BULLETIN

## Ignited Hand Sanitizer

### DESCRIPTION OF EVENT:

April 2020, at Gassco in Haugesund, Norway, a Gassco employee used alcohol based hand sanitizer as recommended during the COVID-10 pandemic. The individual touched a metal surface before the liquid evaporated. Due to static electricity, the vapor from the hand sanitizer ignited with an almost invisible flame on both hands. The person quickly managed to get to a sink to extinguish the flames.

### CONSEQUENCE

- First and second degree burns to the hand

### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Warning signs indicating flammable liquids are posted on all hand sanitizing dispensers at Gassco

### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Use only a dime-sized amount of sanitizer; too much liquid may not evaporate quickly
- If spilled or otherwise released, remove all ignition sources immediately from the area to mitigate the possibility of a fire
- If spilled, clean up with water immediately (this is a chemical and should not be combined with other cleaning agents)
- Store away from all heat and ignition sources, including (but not limited to) sparks; open flames; any types of electrical outlets, switches or equipment; and extreme heat / hot temperatures
- No smoking should be allowed – keep away from sparks and flames – highly flammable
- In case of eye contact, remove contact lenses if present, wash immediately with clear water for at least 15 minutes. If irritation occurs, contact a physician immediately
- In case of accidental ingestion, drink water to dilute, do not induce vomiting. Contact a physician immediately



**Everyone should wash their hands with soap and water if possible. If only hand sanitizers are available, make sure all liquid has evaporated before touching any surface.**