

Flammable Liquids

Overview

Task Context

It is hoped that through this activity, students will begin to understand that some liquids (e.g., gasoline, barbecue starter fluid, paint thinner, etc.) are flammable and can be dangerous when stored or used improperly

Expectations

Grade 2	Grade 3
2e60 • participate in group discussions, demonstrating a sense of when to speak, when to listen, and how much to say;	3e51 • listen to discussions and ask questions to clarify meaning;
2p3 • outline safety rules and safe practices;	3e63 • contribute ideas appropriate to the topic in group discussion and listen to the ideas of others;
2p11 • identify safety rules to be followed in the home, school, and community (e.g., electrical safety, schoolyard rules, bus safety);	3p3 • list safety procedures and practices in the home, school, and community
	3p10 • explain relevant safety procedures (e.g., fire drills, railway-crossing and crosswalk procedures);

Groupings

Students Working As Whole Class

Students Work in Small Groups

Students Working Individually

Notes to Teacher

The following materials will be required:

- magazines
- construction paper
- glue
- empty gasoline can
- can of soda
- bottle of water

- empty containers of household cleaning products
- empty bottle of nail polish remover

Teaching / Learning

1. Teachers discuss with the students the concept of vaporization and vapours. For example: Mom bakes chocolate chip cookies. When you come home from school, do you have to see the cookies to know she baked them? Why? (You smell them.)
2. Teachers explain that something that smells like cookies is leaving them and moving through the house. You can't see it or touch it, but you smell it but you know it's there. That something is vapour.
3. Teachers explain that some liquids have vapours, too, and they can catch fire. For example, if someone leaves a can of gasoline open on a table in the kitchen, soon you will smell the gas in the hall or in your bedroom. The vapours you smell can catch on fire wherever they get close to a spark or flame. You can't see them, but they can burn you.
- 4 Teachers discuss why the above situation (open gasoline in the house) is dangerous. Gasoline and other flammable liquids should not be stored n the house.
5. Students gather around a display of flammable/non-flammable liquids. (e.g., empty gasoline can, household cleaning products, nail polish remover, can of soda, water).
6. Teachers discuss the meaning of "flammable" (easily set on fire).
7. Teachers discuss the flammability of each liquid.
8. Students look in magazines and cut out pictures of flammable and non-flammable liquids to paste on construction paper.
8. Students circle the pictures of flammable liquids.

Teacher Information

Flammable liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, barbecue starter fluid, and paint thinner present a serious hazard in the home.

Flammable liquids are a major cause of burn injuries. Actually, it is not the liquids that burn; it is the vapours from the liquids, combined with air in the right mixture, that presents a fire hazard. A spark or flame may touch off a serious explosion.