

River Protection Project Hanford Lessons Learned

Title: Aerosol Can Explodes

Date: 5/24/01

Identifier: 2001-RPP-HNF-SN-01-05

Lessons Learned Statement: Personnel should be reminded of the potential for aerosol cans to explode due to exposure to high temperatures.

Discussion of Activities: On 5/24/01, a government vehicle on the Hanford Site was discovered to have the rear window knocked out by a small exploding can of pressurized air which had been stored in the interior of the vehicle. Ambient temperatures in the area reached the 100 degree mark causing the contents of the aerosol can to expand in the heat and explode. The resultant explosion ejected the aerosol can through the rear window of the vehicle.

The can had shot out the rear window like a small missile and was found outside the vehicle on the ground amid the broken glass.

No personnel were in the vicinity when this occurred so there were no injuries other than the damage done to the vehicle.

Recommended Actions: Immediately inspect vehicles for the presence of pressurized canisters and remove them from vehicles, in particular those parked outside in the heat, and store them according to the label in properly cool areas.

Some materials contained in these cans can be harmful or irritating in high concentrations. Should a pressurized container explode or leak in your vehicle, take the precaution of thoroughly ventilating the interior before entering by opening all doors and waiting a reasonable period.

Priority Descriptor: RED

Hanford Functional Categories: Operations

Hazard: Potential personnel injury and/or equipment damage

ISM Core function: - Analyze the Hazards/Develop and Implement Controls

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