

SAFETY ALERT

The below information has been issued on behalf of the FPS to make others aware of the potential risks and possible precautions to take in order to avoid these.

Date/Time of Incident:	18/06/2019
Type of Incident:	High Potential Incident
Nature of Incident/Injury:	Fire damage to vehicle during fabrication works

Details of Incident:

This alert has been produced following a serious incident which occurred whilst a fitter was carrying out fabrication works. The fitter was unharmed however there was the potential for serious injuries to be sustained by him, and anyone else working in the vicinity had the gas bottles exploded.

The fitter was stood at the side of the van adjacent to the doors using Oxy-Fuel burning equipment to heat up a metal bracket.

The hoses were laid through the van and out of the side doors

The fitter turned to see a fire in the van spreading rapidly.

An attempt was made to put the fire out and the emergency services were called.

A small leak in the equipment plus the back doors being closed is believed to have caused the build up of gas. The flashback arrestors prevented the flames entering the gas cylinders.



Root cause (if known):	The root cause related to the maintenance and inspection of plant & equipment. The pre-use check carried out by the operator did not identify the small leak.
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Risk assessments for transport and use of flammable gases to be reviewed in accordance with British Compressed Gas Association (BCGA) guidance and Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR). When planning works, site specific risk assessments must identify the potential impact on surrounding areas, particularly high risk environments (eg railways, highways, hospital, schools etc)

Action Taken: All items of hot works equipment inspected for signs of damage, and leak tests performed, prior to work commencing. Repair / refurbish all gas burning equipment in accordance with the guidance published by the British Compressed Gas Association

Where gas cylinders cannot be removed from the van during use, they must be positioned close to one of the van doors. During use, the van's back and side doors must both be open to ensure through ventilation and prevent gas building up inside. Gas hoses must be run directly out of the van through the nearest door

The work area shall be located clear of the van to prevent heat/sparks reaching the van
Fire extinguishers must be placed outside of the van in your work area

Guidance published by the British Compressed Gas Association does not specify an age limit for hose assemblies. After consideration, an age limit has been introduced.

Lessons Learnt: It is noted that there are several different types of flash arrestor in use; simple in-line types and others with temperature / pressure sensitive cut off valves which require reset if there are variations within the system. BCGA guidance recommends temperature or pressure sensitive cut off valves to be fitted to oxy-fuel systems.

When a vehicle is stationary, the high and low level vents in a vehicle are not effective enough to prevent a build up of gas if a leak occurs