

	OILY RAG DISPOSAL	Date:
	TOOLBOX / TAILGATE TALK	Presenter:

Disposing of Oily Rags

Introduction

1. Review any accidents or "near accidents" from the past week.
2. Describe the hazards of the work as they relate to your project. Explain or show the Safe way of doing the job.
3. Give the Tool Box Safety Talk

Oily rags are a serious fire hazard because they can spontaneously combust. Many states regulate the disposal of oily rags as "oily waste." The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not regulate oily rags as waste as long as the rags do not have any free-flowing oil, contain hazardous contaminants, or meet the definition of a characteristic oil hazardous waste. Follow these procedures for safe disposal of oily rags:

- Properly dispose of oily rags or send to a rag cleaning service.
- Oily rags should be placed in an approved and clearly-labeled airtight container. Always keep containers closed securely.
- If the rags are contaminated with other chemicals, especially those that are "hazardous," (heavy metals, toxic chemicals, paint, etc.) do not burn them. Rather, treat the rags as a hazardous waste and dispose of them accordingly.
- If you are unsure whether the rags contain hazardous materials, consult the Material Safety Data Sheet for information proper disposal or contact your supervisor



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