

HSE Alert: Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitiser



The following incident has been shared with us and was initially reported via Highways England which was shared by one of their Supply Chain Partners.

The Incident

An individual used an alcohol-based hand sanitiser (as initially recommended during the Coronavirus pandemic), and after using it the individual touched a metal surface before the liquid had completely evaporated.

Due to the discharge of static electricity, the vapour from the hand sanitiser ignited with an almost invisible flame on both hands.

The injured person quickly managed to get to a sink to extinguish the flames but sustained first and second degree burns before the flames were extinguished.

Blisters/burns sustained during incident



Learning Points:

- ❖ **Everyone should wash their hands with soap and water wherever possible.**
- ❖ **If alcohol-based hand sanitiser is used, ensure that all the liquid has fully evaporated before touching any surfaces.**
- ❖ **Do not smoke immediately after using alcohol-based hand sanitiser.**
- ❖ **If alcohol-based sanitiser is used to clean hard surfaces, ensure that there are is well ventilated during use and until the sanitiser has fully evaporated.**