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O.I.C. is to read this circular to all station personnel and discuss. Then sign the appropriate box above to confirm that this has been completed	

OPERATIONS

20 May 2008

SAFETY CIRCULAR 08 / 2008

File 00924

Expelled Fuel from Five Litre Fuel Cans

There have been a number of near miss reports received regarding pressurised fuel expelling from 5 litre fuel cans when both employees and volunteers have opened the fuel cap. Trends show that a fuel can (carrying unleaded fuel) that has been exposed to the various types of heat on the fire ground may expel fuel rapidly due to over pressurisation, possibly covering the person opening it with fuel. In a worst case scenario this could either directly, or indirectly result in significant harm.

Investigations into obtaining fuel cans with a pressure relief valve revealed that there is no suitable substitute currently available. Relocation of the cans on appliances was also investigated however they have already been placed as strategically as possible to present least risk of harm. The rubber mat covering the surface of the Light Tanker tray was placed to prevent excessive heating of the bottom of the can; however any further insulation housing would hinder surrounding air movement, reduction of convection heat, and would also trap fumes.

Hazard management strategies therefore fall to ensuring all staff and volunteers are aware of the hazard, educated in safe operating procedures and ensuring that they wear appropriate PPE when opening fuel cans.

Operating Procedures

Prior to opening, the pouring neck must be directed **away** from the operator.
Always wear PPE when opening fuel cans.

Opening should be a 3 stage process

Fully withdraw the retaining pin.

Lift cap handle **slowly** to allow pressure build up to vent.

Lift cap handle completely and pour using attached funnel.

Extra caution should be observed in hot conditions

CRAIG HYNES
CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

A	All brigades/units/roles
AR	All Regions
While this document is specifically targeted at the above areas, all Brigades and Units should be aware of the information contained within.	