

## **Duke OESO Guidelines for Safe Use of**

## **FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS**



		Examples: Ethanol, Isopropanol, Methanol, Acetone, n-Hexane, Pentane
Hazards	Potential Hazards	<ul> <li>Vapors can produce fire and explosion if ignited.</li> <li>Some flammable solvents can affect health. See Toxic Liquids guidelines for See Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for specific hazard information.</li> <li>A lab-specific SOP is needed for particularly hazardous chemicals (e.g., Acrolein, Benzene).</li> </ul>
Hazard Controls	Selection & Purchase	<ul> <li>Purchase the smallest containers at the lowest concentration practical.</li> <li>Purchase in shatter-resistant containers if available (such as PVC-coated glass).</li> </ul>
	Storage & Transportation	<ul> <li>Store away from oxidizers.</li> <li>See SDS for other storage incompatibilities.</li> <li>Store in a flammables cabinet if possible. No more than 10 gallons outside approved flammable storage cabinets.</li> <li>Do NOT store in a standard refrigerator or cold room.</li> <li>Store below eye level but not on the floor.</li> <li>Storage must not inhibit safe egress.</li> <li>Consult OESO Fire Safety if you have large amounts.</li> <li>Transport in a bottle carrier.</li> </ul>
	Engineering Controls	<ul> <li>Work in a chemical fume hood if:</li> <li>The chemical is irritating to the eyes or respiratory system, or hazardous by inhalation.</li> <li>Air concentrations could reach or exceed 10% of the lower flammable limit.</li> </ul>
	Work Practice Controls	<ul> <li>Know the location of the nearest fire extinguisher.</li> <li>Use the smallest practical quantities for the work being performed.</li> <li>Avoid using near sources of ignition or static electricity.</li> <li>Ensure proper grounding. Be sure to ground metal containers when transferring flammable liquids.</li> <li>Close containers of flammable chemicals when not in use to prevent vapor escape.</li> </ul>
	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<ul> <li>Minimum PPE:</li> <li>Fastened lab coat, safety glasses, and nitrile gloves</li> <li>For risk of splash or if using large amounts:</li> <li>Chemical splash goggles and face shield</li> <li>Flame-resistant lab coat</li> <li>Avoid wearing flammable clothing (such as many synthetics)</li> <li>Consult the manufacturer's glove guide for glove effectiveness with the chemical you are using.</li> </ul>
Other	Emergencies	See Emergency Response Flip Chart and/or lab specific chemical hygiene plan. (For large flammable liquid spills, turn off ignition sources, evacuate the area, call 911/Duke Police.)
	Waste	Follow above storage guidelines. See lab-specific chemical hygiene plan, <u>Lab Chemical Waste Management Practice</u> , and <u>Drain Disposal Practice</u> .
	Training	Sign signature page in lab-specific plan to indicate review.
	Questions	OESO Fire & Life Safety: 919-684-5609; OESO Occupational Hygiene & Safety: 919-684-5996.