

HAZARD ALERT

RISK MANAGEMENT SECTION



Department of
Environment and Conservation

Date: 9th December 2009

Alert No: 4

Source: Incident investigation - Perth Hills District

Internal

External

Author: FMS

Identified Hazard: Unintentional ignition of windproof/waterproof matches (fusees)

Risk Rating:

Low

Moderate

High

Significant

Nature of Incident:

Injury

Property Damage

Near-hit

Description of Incident:

An employee was removing his fire jacket when a box of easy strike matches ignited inside his jacket pocket. The jacket was removed and extinguished. No injury was sustained.

Incident Time and Date: 26th November 2009

Equipment Involved:

Box of easy strike windproof/waterproof matches (fusees)

Background Information:

If the match box gets damaged and matches become loose they can come in contact with the striker plate on the match box and ignite unintentionally. This may cause the entire box of matches to ignite creating a potentially dangerous situation inside a vehicle or cause injury to a person. This type of incident has been reported on several occasions in WA and other States.

Recommendations:

- Care must be taken to ensure that the match box does not become damaged allowing matches to contact the striker plate.
- Fusees must be carried in an airtight metal container in vehicles and when carried on your person or in your equipment.
- Suitable metal containers can be provided by District Fire Coordinators.
- Used matches should never be placed back into the box.
- FOG 25 'Windproof and Waterproof Matches (Fusees)' has been updated on the FMS Website.

See <https://internal.fms.wa.gov.au/documents/fire-operational-guidelines>

Link

[https://internal.fms.wa.gov.au/files/documents/fireoperations/fog2/FOG_25_WINDPROOF_AND_WATERPROOF_MATCHES_\(FUSEES\).pdf](https://internal.fms.wa.gov.au/files/documents/fireoperations/fog2/FOG_25_WINDPROOF_AND_WATERPROOF_MATCHES_(FUSEES).pdf)

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