



COVIDIGEST

SERIES NO. 9

FIRE SAFETY AND ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER (ABHS)

HAND HYGIENE AND FIRE SAFETY GO HAND IN HAND

Facing the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone has the role to take preventive measures such as cleaning and disinfecting to slow the spread of the virus. Disinfection involves the use of alcohol-based products which may become fire hazards as these are potentially flammable. The World Health Organization suggests that all facilities and individuals using alcohol-based hand sanitizers should keep in mind the following safety tips:

USE



Let your hands dry and the vapors disperse after using ABHS. It contains ethyl alcohol, a flammable liquid, which readily evaporates at room temperature into an ignitable vapor.

LOCATION



Hand rub dispensers should not be placed above or close to sources of ignition, such as light switches and electrical outlets, or next to oxygen or other medical gas outlets.

STORAGE



Store hand rub dispensers in a cool place and make sure that lids are secured. The quantity of hand rub kept in a property should be reasonable and practical for day-to-day purposes.

DISPOSAL



Rinse out used containers with cold water to remove gel residues and flammable vapors. Containers may then be recycled or disposed of in general waste.

STANDARDS



Follow local and national fire safety laws and standards. These include activities that reduce sources of ignition, ensure safe storage of flammable liquids, and establish methods for exits in case of fire.

PERMITS



Properties may contact their local fire officials to ensure that requirements and fire permits related to the installation of ABHS have been met.