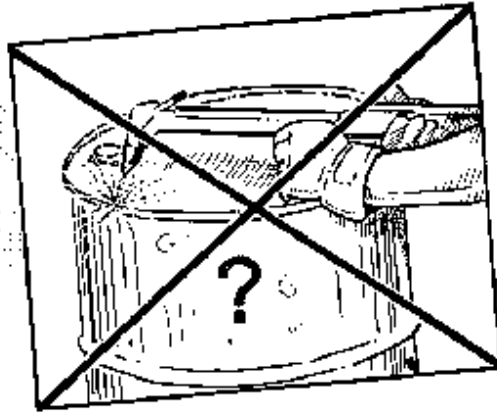
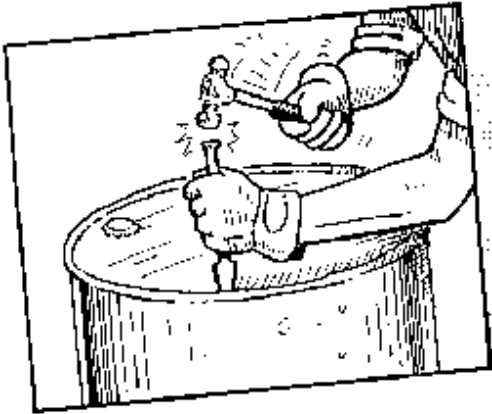


Work **Safe!** Bulletin

The Cleaning or Safeguarding of Small Tanks and Containers

Bulletin No.: 127
August 1990

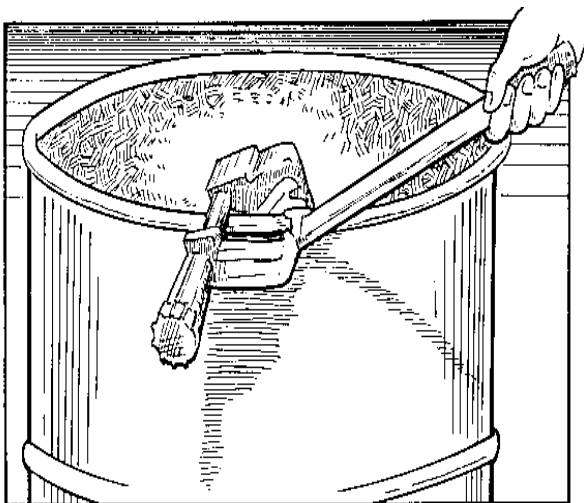


Many accidents, some of them fatal, have occurred because welding, brazing, soldering or cutting operations, involving the application of heat, have been attempted on fuel tanks, drums or similar vessels. The vessels contained hazardous substances such as combustible or toxic solids, liquids, vapours, dusts and gases and the vessels had not been made safe for such work.

If recommended safe practices had been followed, many lives would have been saved and many cases of serious injuries would have been prevented.

- Before any operation involving the application of heat to any tank or drum or similar vessel is undertaken, steps must be taken to ensure that no hazardous material is present within the vessel or that any such material is completely removed before heat is applied.
- No such container should be presumed to be clean or safe.

- The procedures must be done under the supervision of persons who understand the fire, explosion and toxicity potential and workers must be sufficiently skilled and properly trained to safely carry out the necessary operations.
- If facilities are not available for ensuring the safe removal of the hazardous substances either in the workplace or elsewhere, repairs to or alterations to the container by methods involving open flame or tools providing possible ignition sources **MUST NOT** be attempted.
- Cleaning and "hot work" operations involving a container that has held unknown substances must not be done since this practice involves unknown risk.
- If the source and content of the residual material in the container cannot be determined, and if chemical analysis cannot be performed, the container should be disposed of.
- If it is not, the material should be assumed to be flammable, toxic, and highly reactive.



DRUM DE-HEADER

NOTE: Additional information sections of Material Safety Data Sheets provided by product manufacturers have now initiated warnings such as:

"Containers of this material may be hazardous when emptied. Since emptied containers retain product residues (vapour, liquid and/or solid) all hazard precautions given in this data sheet must be observed".

NFPA Standard 327-1982, "Standard Procedures for Cleaning or Safeguarding Small Tanks and Containers" may be obtained by contacting: National Fire Protection Association, Inc., Battery March Park, Quincy, MA., U.S.A. 02269.

