

SAFETY ALERT - #37-2006

HAZARD ALERT – BOTTLED AIR EXPLOSION OCCURS INSIDE TRUCK CAB

RELEASE DATE: JUNE 30, 2006

Function: Other	Incident Date: June 2, 2006
Location: Onshore	Location Detail: Other – truck cab
Incident Type: Injury – first and second degree burns	Country and Region: USA, Georgia

Description of Incident:

Statement:

UNRECOGNIZED HAZARDS CAN EXIST ANYWHERE. The explosion of a sprayed "canned air" container in a parked vehicle is a good example of just that!

Here are pictures of a truck. The driver sprayed "canned air" (like you use to clean your keyboard) in his truck to clean the dash and overhead console. A few minutes later he rolled down his window, went to light a cigarette, and a flash explosion occurred inside the cab. Thankfully, the driver was alone in the truck. He had first and second degree burns on his arms and spent four days in a burn center.



Front view of truck after ignition/explosion



Rear view of truck after ignition/explosion

Analysis:

This can contains 1,1-difluoroethane. It is an extremely flammable aerosol propellant, as well as an asphyxiant if inhaled in large enough concentrations.





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Corrective Actions:

Use caution with compressed chemicals. Read contents very carefully. Most aerosols have flammable propellants-even "canned air."

Contact:

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