

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Drum & Barrel Safety Tips



In most workplaces drums and barrels are used in some form, either for receiving a product and dispensing it, storing a substance that you might have on hand or for disposing wastes.

In all of these various circumstances the barrels will have to be moved at some point. Like any other project, there is a right and wrong way of moving these drums or barrels. The right way "gets the job done" and keeps you safe. The wrong way can open up a bad "can of worms," causing a possible injury and with that the potential for lost work days.

Following we shall discuss the type of injuries that improper use can cause and some safe ways to handle drums and barrels:

Four serious injuries that could happen with mishandling drums and barrels:

- ✓ Fractures
- ✓ Lacerations
- ✓ Hernias
- ✓ Back strain

Any one of these injuries is very painful and takes a long time to heal. Before you start to move a barrel or drum, please consider using these tips. By doing so you could possibly save yourself a serious and painful injury.

- Check to see if there is ample room to move the drum or barrel.
- Plan your route of how you expect to travel to move the item.
- Don't start to move with the unit until you also check your route to see that there are no obstacles in your way. This prior check may save you from slipping or tripping.
- Make sure that the drum isn't warped. A warped drum or barrel could cause you to slip down.
- Check for burrs or sharp edges that might cause you to cut yourself.
- Check the drum for small leaks or drips that could cause you to lose your grip.
- Check the bung to be sure that it is tight enough to prevent a leak.
- If you are using a pallet to move a drum or barrel, make sure that the pallet is in good condition and that you can stabilize the barrel on the pallet so that it does not move or shift.

Identification of Hazardous- of Handling Drums & Barrels-

- Too heavy for people to handle.
- Flexible plastic drums are too hard to grip.
- Drums stored in tight spaces.
- Cluttered, slippery or uneven floors.
- Contents of partially-filled drums or barrels that tend to shift in handling, causing them to get out of balance.

Drum/Barrel Handling Safety Tips-

- ✓ Acknowledge the hazardous circumstances and procedures.
- ✓ Check the MSDS of drum contents.
- ✓ Wear the appropriate protective clothing such as, gloves, boots with steel-toes, safety glasses and etc.
- ✓ Ensure that there is adequate floor space and adequate lighting.
- ✓ Provide the correct equipment for safe handling of the drums/barrels.
- ✓ If drum handling attachments are used for the forklift, make sure that the proper labeling is applied to the forklift frame.
- ✓ Orient all employees in the correct use of drum handling equipment.

Recommendations for Mechanically Handling Drums and Barrels-

There are several types of equipment that make moving drums and barrels much easier if they are used as designed, such as: a drum truck, forklift attachment, below-hook drum lifter and other equipment specially designed for drum handling.

When one approaches a full 55-gallon drum, depending on the contents, it can weigh upwards of 1,500 lbs. or more. A single man should not approach this drum or barrel with the intention of moving it alone. If you could even move it, you increase your potential for a back injury, maimed fingers or hands, so why attempt to gamble on a serious injury. Call for mechanical help. Even with mechanical aids, one needs to take extreme care that the drum or barrel is securely attached to the device for moving.

***A SPILL ~ A SLIP =
A HOSPITAL TRIP!***

SO

***BE SAFETY SMART RIGHT FROM THE
START!!***