

SAFETY ALERT



Worker injured after ingesting fuel

DETAILS

On Tuesday 7 July 2021, a worker ingested an unknown quantity of unleaded fuel while priming a siphon to transfer fuel from one portable generator to another. He was taken to the nearest medical centre where the doctor that examined him admitted him to Middlemore A&E. He underwent a nasal lavage and was kept under observation for several hours before being discharged.

FURTHER ACTIONS

WorkSafe has been notified and will be making enquiries

KEY LEARNINGS

When working with substances that are hazardous to human health and the environment, the handling instructions contained in the safety data sheet must be followed.

Always be aware of the first aid measures required for exposure to specific hazardous substances.

REMINDER – when working with hazardous substances

- Ensure that workers are trained in the safe handling and storage of hazardous substances as detailed in the relevant safety data sheets.
- Hydrocarbon based fuels are acutely toxic to both plant and animal life. Ingestion and inhalation can be fatal.
- **Auckland Transport does not condone any type of siphon to be used on its worksites. This safety alert is a reminder to all contractors to remove siphoning from all standard operating procedures and work method statements.**

Further information can be found here: [Worksafe Petrol Safety](#)

Please distribute and communicate this Safety Alert to all team members, and ensure all controls in place are effective to prevent this type of incident reoccurring.

Occurred

7 July 2021

Issued

9 July 2021

Location

West Auckland

Outcome

Serious injury

Potential outcome

Long-term impact on health