

1ST QUARTER 2019

SAFETY MATTERS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION OF OIL SOAKED TOWELS

Naturally occurring oils, such as cooking oils, produce heat as they soak in natural materials such as cotton or paper towels. The heat produced while sitting or soaking can be considerable and can lead to spontaneous combustion of the towels. The heat and fire generated from the spontaneously combusting towels can spread to other combustible materials causing a substantial fire.

To reduce the potential of spontaneous combustion from towels, the following guidelines should be followed:

DISPOSABLE TOWELS

Consider switching to disposable towels instead of cloth linens that must be laundered. Using disposable towels greatly reduces potential of spontaneous combustion. Disposable towels must be taken out with the trash multiple times throughout the day to reduce the chance of a fire inside the drive-in.

REMEMBER



TAKE OUT DISPOSABLE TOWELS WITH THE TRASH MULTIPLE TIMES EVERY DAY TO REDUCE THE RISK OF A SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION FIRE INSIDE THE DRIVE-IN.



CLOTH TOWELS

If using a linen towel that must be laundered, thoroughly rinse all soiled towels with water and SSDC HI CON detergent or Inside Out Heavy-Duty Cleaner. After applying cleaner and rubbing into soiled linens, rinse the towels again with water to help remove any excess oil, grease or cleaning product. Lightly wring rinsed towels, leaving them wet, to dissipate any heat generated by trace amounts of residue remaining in towels.

Place soiled and rinsed towels in UL Approved Self Closing Fireproof Containers equipped with a spring-loaded lid (available from Hagar Restaurant Services) while inside the building. Do not overfill and ensure the lid is closed and sealed. A sealed container will limit the amount of oxygen to reduce potential of spontaneous combustion. Thoroughly rinsed linens still contain residual amounts of oil that could cause spontaneous combustion. Store the container away from ignition sources in a cool area out of direct sunlight and containers should be emptied daily removing soiled linens from the building.

Do not tightly pack the soiled linens in the fireproof container. Tightly packed towels do not allow the heat generated during storage to dissipate; this can cause the towels in the bin to catch fire. If the metal storage container is full, it should be emptied and soiled linens stored outside of building for pickup from linen vendor.

CLOTH TOWEL CLEANING

Use of a professional laundry service is highly recommended. The service should be contractually required to pick up soiled towels at least two to three times per week.

Self-laundering in an on-site washer and dryer or at a laundromat is not recommended. Household laundry supplies do not adequately remove oils and the drying process can actually increase the likelihood of a spontaneous combustion fire.

CONCLUSION

Following these steps will help to significantly reduce the chances of a spontaneous combustion fire from storing cleaned and soiled cleaning towels in the drive-in. Your cooperation and assistance in following the above specified recommendations is appreciated!

REMEMBER

STORE RINSED
CLOTH TOWELS
IN **FIREPROOF
CONTAINERS**
LOCATED AWAY
FROM IGNITION
SOURCES IN A
COOL AREA OUT
OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT. **EMPTY SOILED
LINENS FROM BUILDING DAILY.**



QUESTIONS?

Contact IMA's Sonic Team



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