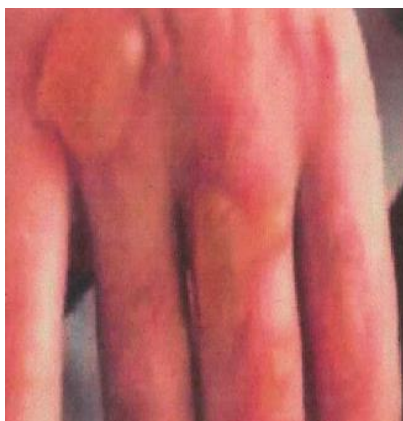


Use of hand sanitiser

Issue date	06/05/2020
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Applicable to	All colleagues and contractors

During this unprecedented time where everyone is being cautious, personal hygiene is a key factor in the battle to protect against COVID-19. It is important to understand that the most innocuous of products may cause harm, even when they are designed to protect you.



The injuries sustained here occurred outside of our industry, however, there is learning for everyone to consider.

Whilst using hand sanitiser as recommended during the COVID-19 pandemic, the injured party touched a metal surface before the liquid had fully evaporated. Due to the static electricity produced, the vapour from the hand sanitiser ignited with an almost invisible flame on both hands. This resulted in the operative suffering 1st and 2nd degree burns as shown on the image.

Key Points to Remember:

1	Where alcohol-based sanitisers are used, they must be well rubbed in and allowed to dry fully ensuring that the liquid has fully evaporated prior to touching any surface.
2	Remember any alcohol containing products will be highly flammable prior to the product evaporating. Most hand sanitisers contain 65-70% alcohol in-line with Public Health England guidance; always read the warning label attached to the product dispenser.
3	Hand washing is a critical control in reducing the spread of the Covid-19 virus, these steps should be followed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use soap and water to thoroughly wash hands for 20 seconds • Utilise hand sanitiser where hand washing facilities are unavailable • Ensure hands are thoroughly dried to prevent the onset of dermatitis
4	Hand sanitisers must always be stored in a cool dry place and ensure that containers are empty prior to disposal.
5	Excessive use of hand sanitisers could lead to health-related conditions such as dermatitis. Contact dermatitis is the inflammation of the skin resulting from exposure to toiletries, chemicals, natural products, including hand sanitiser. All skin irritation resulting from the use of hand sanitisers at work, should be reported immediately to your line manager and to the HSE Team hands@enwl.co.uk



