

Safety Alert

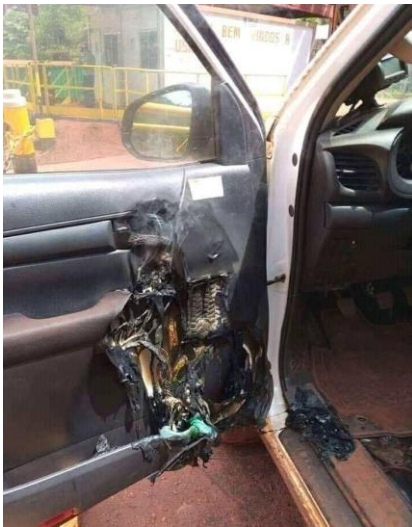


SUBJECT: Hand Sanitiser Gel/Liquid – Fire Risk

RECIPIENTS: All Council Services

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Following recent reports of hand gel/sanitiser catching fire whilst stored in vehicles, please be aware of the following:

- Many sanitising hand gels and sprays are alcohol based. All alcohol-based products are potentially flammable and therefore they should be stored away from high temperatures and flames.
- The flashpoint of alcohol-based hand gels/sanitiser varies between products and can be as low as **22°C**.
- The flashpoint is low due to the alcohol content and the vapours present within the containers.

What do I need to do to reduce the risk of Fire? The following control measures will reduce risk to an acceptable level:

- Where possible, we need to promote the use of **soap and water** to reduce the reliance on hand gels/sanitiser.
- If you are using your own sanitiser / gels, do **not** leave them stored in your vehicle.

Storage Advice:

- Store in a cool area. Do **not** leave in direct sunlight, e.g. on vehicle dashboard seats or on window sills.
- Store **away** from strong acids or oxidising agents. Do not expose to naked flames or direct heat.

In use:

- Do not use any equipment that generates a naked flame (i.e. cigarette lighter), or touch a metallic surface, as there is a risk of static directly after applying alcohol based hand gel/sanitiser.
- Make sure all the liquid has evaporated first.

The Corporate Health & Safety Team can be contacted at corporatehealth&safety@lincolnshire.gov.uk