



SUBJECT: Transporting Welding Equipment

RECIPIENTS: All Services

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New research - Carrying acetylene in vehicles

Acetylene cylinders should be transported in open vehicles. If this is not reasonably practicable and acetylene cylinders or an oxy/acetylene set has to be carried in the rear of a closed van, it is necessary to ensure adequate ventilation is available to the load space of the vehicle.

Research was recently carried out into how ventilation in the rear of enclosed vans affects the build-up of acetylene gas.



Acetylene is an extremely flammable gas and can form an explosive atmosphere in the presence of air or oxygen. The gas has an unusually wide explosive limit which means that even a small leak in an enclosed space can cause an explosive atmosphere to build up. A fatal accident occurred when a van carrying oxy-acetylene welding equipment exploded.

For further details and to view footage showing what can happen when acetylene gas leaking from welding equipment, that is being stored in the back of a van, mixes with oxygen in the air and is ignited, please click [here](#).

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:

Your Mouchel Health & Safety Adviser (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)