

Hazard



Alert!

Hazard Summary

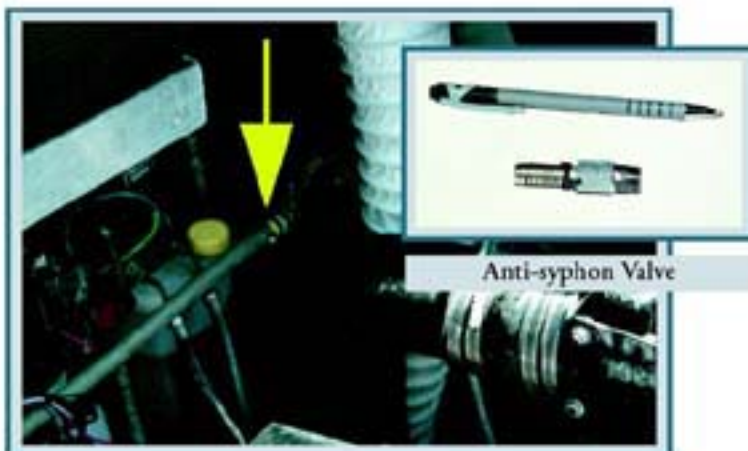
One worker was killed and another injured in an explosion which destroyed a boat repair and maintenance building. Workers were repairing an engine in a thirty foot mussel boat when gasoline vapours in the bilge were ignited.

Cause

A malfunction in the carburetor allowed gasoline to syphon from the fuel tanks, through the carburetor into the oil base pan. The mixture overflowed into the bilge. The gasoline was cleaned up but fumes remaining in the bilge were ignited by a spark as the engine was turned over.

Hazard Location

Boats equipped with gasoline engines.



Recommended Precautions

- ! Fuel system shut off valves should be located in an area outside engine compartments where workers have easy access.
- ! Cleanup of flammable liquids should be done with intrinsically safe equipment to eliminate the possibility of fume ignition from static electricity or sparks. Commercially available shop vacs are not intrinsically safe.
- ! Work areas should be well ventilated during and after cleanup of flammable liquids.
- ! Monitoring devices for gasoline fumes should be used.
- ! All boats equipped with gasoline engines should have anti-syphon valves installed in the fuel delivery lines.



Workers Compensation Board
of Prince Edward Island

For further information,
contact Occupational Health & Safety
at (902) 368-5697
or visit our website at www.wcb.pe.ca

Issued July 2001