



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

SAFETY ALERT

ARTC NSW No. 64



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PRESSURISED CANISTERS/SPRAY CANS

A recent workplace incident has highlighted the need to be careful and vigilant when using canisters/spray cans.

The incident involved a worker undertaking tasks in a pit, approximately 1.4 metres in depth. The worker was using an electrical drill, to drill holes for the installation of new pit lids.

In an unrelated activity nearby, another worker tossed a can of “*polyfilla*”, over a fence, in preparation for works he was to perform. On impact with the ground, the can ruptured, causing the flammable contents to be expelled. The can spun on the ground and dropped into the pit, which was occupied by the worker drilling holes.

After expelling the remainder of the cans contents inside the pit, it is believed that the flammable gas was ignited after coming into contact with the electric drill.

Ignition of the flammable gas caused the worker in the pit to suffer burns to various parts of his body.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

- Discuss with employees under your control the contents of this Safety Alert
- Remind workers of the potential hazards/risks associated with pressurised canisters/spray cans – especially when working in/around possible ignition sources
- Discuss proper disposal methods for used canisters/spray cans
- Ensure a “sign-off” (for example, a Team Safety Meeting record) is obtained to verify that employees have been briefed on this Safety Alert

