

April 09'

Safety



Strike flares: the unsafe “safety” item

The strike flare (also known as fusee) has been a fixture at accident scenes, lane closures and D.U.I checkpoints for decades. So, it may surprise you to learn that these “safety items” really aren’t safe at all. In fact, they are toxic and extremely dangerous.

We hear it all the time..... emergency personnel are sick and tired of being burned by strike flares. Strike flares burn at extremely high temperatures; it can be terribly painful when the flame comes into contact with skin.

This incidental damage to uniforms and other equipment is an additional risk and cost that needs to be considered when using strike flares.

Spilled oil and gasoline are common at accident scenes. Should a strike flare be placed on or near a flammable liquid, a fire would quickly ensue. And don’t forget about brush fires....strike flares can quickly ignite brush or grass.

Strike flares also present another, unseen danger.....noxious fumes. Strike

flares emit toxic fumes while being burned. These fumes can be absorbed by clothing and hair. More importantly, the fumes can irritate your throat, eyes and lungs.

Strike flares are so hazardous, in fact, that users are urged to contact a physician IMMEDIATELY if its fumes are inhaled.

From the risk of burns and igniting flammables, to the risk of fume inhalation, strike flares are a significant hazard. Just one more reason to make the switch to the FlareAlert.

The Keystone Group

FlareAlert Monthly Safety Edition



Strike flares don’t just burn the user...they also have been known to burn expensive equipment. During use, strike flares often spray “molten specks” that can quickly burn small holes in pants, boots, or anything they come into contact with.

Departments losing vehicles to strike flares

In a recent report, the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) highlighted the risk strike flares pose to police vehicles.

The report detailed the events that led to a Colorado police vehicle’s trunk unexpectedly erupting in flames. According to the report, an independent investigation determined that the fire was caused by strike flares being stored in the vehicle’s trunk.

Interestingly, this is not an isolated incident. In fact, CIRSA reports that other departments have experienced similar fires.

As if the risk of burning your skin wasn’t enough, now users need to worry about losing their vehicles.

Coming next month....FlareAlert and the Environment

Next month we’ll explore the dangers strike flares pose to the environment and show how the FlareAlert is an environmental -friendly alternative to the toxic strike flare.