

## **Bowling Green State University Chafing Fuel Program**

### **PURPOSE**

Chafing fuel (Sterno®) devices carry the risk of unintentional fire when not used appropriately. The purpose of this program is to establish guidelines for safe and proper use of chafing fuel on the BGSU campus.

### **DEFINITION**

Chafing fuel consists of metal canisters containing an alcohol-based flammable gel or combustible liquid primarily used for keeping food and beverages warm for an extended period of time.

### **AUTHORITY**

Environmental Health & Safety/Risk Management

### **SCOPE**

This policy applies to faculty, staff, students, contractors/vendors, visitors, and guests.

### **HANDLING AND STORAGE**

- Always use caution when handling open flame products
- Store tightly covered in a cool, dry place
- Chafing fuel must be stored in a flammable storage cabinet
- Use only in areas with adequate ventilation
- Store canisters away from food, utensils, ignition sources, and oxidizing agents
- Protect canisters against electrostatic charges
- Avoid contact with eyes and skin
- Thoroughly wash hands after handling to remove any fuel residue
- Remove all soiled and contaminated clothing immediately
- For personal protective equipment and first aid recommendations, please see product Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

### **SAFETY**

- Always use the correct fuel for the heating application (e.g., ethanol-based fuel for direct cooking of S'mores)
- Always use a blunt object, such as a spoon, to pry off the lid
- Always cup hand over lid when opening can
- Always remove excess gel from lid if being used as a regulator to maintain a target temperature
- Always place the can securely underneath chafing dish or beverage urn before lighting
- Always use long handled butane lighters to light cans
- Always use a can cap, snuffer paddle or regulator to extinguish flame
- Always wait until can is cool before touching
- Always have access to a properly maintained ABC rated fire extinguisher while chafing fuel is in use
- Never use a sharp knife to pry off lid
- Never use a lit can to light another can
- Never carry lit cans
- Never carry chafing dishes or beverage units with lit cans
- Never touch cans while still hot
- Never allow décor, loose clothing, napkins or tablecloths near flame
- Never allow hair to fall near flame
- Never use hands to extinguish flame
- Never blow out flame to extinguish

**DISPOSAL**

All partially filled, empty, and expired canisters must be disposed of in accordance with the BGSU Hazardous Waste Management Procedures. Chafing fuel containers deemed as waste must be stored in a metal container with a lid (such as a metal drum or trash can) that is labeled "Flammable Waste Sterno Fuel". Gel chafing fuel waste must be stored in separate waste containers from liquid chafing fuel waste due to differences in hazard classification. BGSU Environmental Health and Safety must be notified to coordinate pick-up for proper waste disposal.