By the Numbers: Flammable and Combustible Liquids

Flammable and combustible liquids are responsible for workplace fires and fires at home. You may not realize it, but you probably have at least a few containers hanging out in your garage, basement, or under the kitchen sink.

1. In a recent report, there were **334** incidents involving dangerous goods that required a report to Transport Canada in 2015, down 13.2% from 2014 and almost 40 fewer reportable incidents than the 10-year average dating back to 2006.
2. Almost **70%** of these incidents occurred in facilities such as terminals or warehouses.
3. Close to **94%** of incidents involved four dangerous good classes – including nearly 61% from Class 3 Flammable and Combustible Liquids.
4. The top **3** causes for the incidents were improper loading/unloading/handling, overfill, and defective fittings, valves, and dome covers.
5. In 2007-2011, U.S. municipal fire departments responded to an estimated average of **51,600** fires per year involving ignition of flammable gas as the type of material first ignited, including **20,260** fires per year in or at homes and **31,340** fires per year in or at other properties. Nearly all these fires involved natural gas, LP-gas, or unclassified or unknown-type gas. The other specific gases identified – acetylene, anesthetic gas, and hydrogen.

Regardless of the location, year, or country, flammable and combustible liquids are a serious fire hazard if not properly used, handled, and stored.