

**“Is Your Flashlight Explosive?”**  
**(Provided by Safety Consultation and Training Section-Nevada Division of Industrial Relations)**



The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) indicates they have received reports of exploding flashlights.

Flashlight batteries, if used incorrectly, may emit hydrogen gas, which is highly explosive. The more sealed the battery compartment, the greater chance of hydrogen gas building up and resulting in an explosion.

To prevent hydrogen gas buildup, NIOSH recommends the following:

- Follow manufactures' recommendations for product use
- **Do not mix** batteries of different brands
- **Do not mix** old and new batteries
- **Do not mix** alkaline with non-alkaline batteries
- **Do not use** damaged batteries
- Make sure you have proper polarity when installing the batteries

If you are going to use a flashlight in an explosive atmosphere:

- Make sure the batteries are in good condition and properly installed
- Open the battery compartment to ventilate the flashlight
- Never inspect your flashlight in a hazardous area or near an open flame

**Remember Any Battery Powered Equipment Could Be Explosive!**

Additional details are available on the NIOSH Fact Sheet “Exploding Flashlights” that can be found at [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh).