

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Aviation Technical Alert

Number 2003-01

Date: January 4, 2003

Subject: Cleaning Solvent

Discussion: In the Region 1 Forest Service hangar a Northstar technician was solvent cleaning a component using an aerosol solvent, "One Shot" by Kent Chemical Inc. As he was spraying this solvent - static electricity provided a source of ignition and the flammable solvent ignited (flashed over). The trash receptacle, floor, and component all were engulfed in flames.

The fire was extinguished; the technician fortunately only experienced the hair on his arms being singed. All containers of this aerosol solvent have been banned from the Region 1 facility. This is the second known incident concerning this product that has resulted in a fire that we have witnessed.

All Forest Service facilities should immediately take action to ban further use of this product and promptly dispose of the product.

For further information contact Eddie Morris 406-329-4918, Jeff Holwick 406-329-3120 or Ron Hanks 208-387-5607.

/s/ Ron Hanks
USFS National Aviation
Safety and Training Manager

/s/ Asher Williams
USFS National Aviation
Operations Officer