



**U.S. Department of Labor**  
Mine Safety and Health Administration

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## Potential Cell Phone Hazard



*Combustible Gases + Cell Phones = Explosions*

TURN OFF CELL PHONES  
BEFORE ENTERING  
SITES WITH POTENTIAL  
EXPLOSIVE MIXTURES

### BACKGROUND

An employee on an offshore drilling rig received second degree burns when he answered his cell phone while working on a panel which contained an explosive mixture of gas. Similarly, a driver suffered burns when gasoline fumes ignited causing an explosion as he was talking on his mobile phone while his vehicle was being fueled. Many mobile phone makers print cautions in their user handbooks that warn against mobile phones in gas stations, fuel storage sites, and chemical factories.

### Best Practices

- Read your instruction book. Mobile phone makers such as Motorola, Ericsson, and Nokia print cautions in their user handbooks that warn against mobile phones in gas stations, fuel storage sites, and chemical factories.
- Turn off your mobile phone before entering any area with a potentially explosive atmosphere (For example: areas around degas wells; coal storage areas; fueling areas, such as gas stations; below deck on boats; fuel transfer storage facilities; chemical transfer and storage facilities; and areas where the air contains chemicals or particles, such as coal dust, grain, dust, or metal

powders).

- Do not transport or store flammable gas, liquid, or explosives in the same compartment of your vehicle that contains your mobile phone and its accessories.



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