

Precautions when working with diesel

Working with diesel can be a health hazard. Anyone involved in the operation and maintenance of diesel-powered equipment and machinery can be exposed to harmful health effects. Effects on workers can be by:

- Fumes
- Contact
- Odour
- Swallowing

The following table looks at the condition, first aid and preventative measures.

<u>Condition</u>	<u>First aid</u>	<u>Precautions</u>
<i>Fumes exposure</i>		
Eye irritation Nose and throat irritation (coughing and inflammation) Headaches and dizziness Stomach ache and diarrhoea	Flush with water	Provide adequate ventilation so that exposure is kept to a minimum. If exposure is unavoidable, provide respirator and goggles as necessary.
<i>Contact</i>		
Eye splash Skin contact	Flush with water. Wash with soap and water.	Provide splash-proof goggles Avoid spillage. Don't overfill tanks. Correctly maintain valves and gauges.
Skin inflammation Acne of face and back Dermatitis	These are longer-term symptoms which need to be treated by a medical practitioner.	Use barrier creams. Provide protective equipment if contact is unavoidable. Regularly launder soiled clothes.
<i>Odour</i>		
Nausea and dizziness	Move to fresh air.	Provide adequate ventilation. May effect some people more than others.
<i>Ingestion</i>		
Small amount in mouth	Rinse out with water until taste is gone.	Avoid wiping mouth with diesel-contaminated hands, cloths or clothing.
Swallowing	Do not induce vomiting. Obtain medical assistance.	Never syphon by mouth. Correctly label containers.