

**DANGEROUS GOODS**

# Storage & Sale of Distress Signals

This information bulletin has been developed to provide advice on the safe storage of distress signals (flares) and the requirements of the [Dangerous Goods Regulations](#).

## Distress signals

Distress signals are classed as dangerous goods of Class 1, and their storage, sale and use are covered by the NT [Dangerous Goods Act](#) and Regulations. Up to 50kg of distress signals may be kept for sale without a licence to store dangerous goods.

## Regulations

NT Dangerous Goods Regulations 93 requires the following where distress signals are stored for sale:

- they are to be kept at least 3m from other dangerous goods (such as fuels, solvents, bleaches etc);
- they must be stored and displayed where they are not accessible to the public (preferably in a glass fronted display case);
- they are not to be kept in a building used as a residence;
- the entrance to any room where flares are stored must display a sign "explosive – distress signals" in 50mm minimum lettering;
- spark-proof containers and storage cabinets containing flares must be labelled "distress signals" 50mm minimum lettering;
- not more than 25kg of them shall be stored in an outer packaging or spark-proof container at any one time;
- storage areas are to be provided with a fire hose reel or a water fire extinguisher of at least 2A rating;
- they must be located such that a fire involving the flares will not impede access to an exit.

A sturdy steel cabinet is a suitable container for distress signals kept in their original packaging. Loose flares should be kept in wood lined boxes. A flammable liquids cabinet will provide further protection for the flares in the event of a fire.

Although the Dangerous Goods Regulations require the above only for distress signals stored for sale, the same requirements should be observed for all storage of these articles in order to fulfill employers' obligations under the [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#).

**For further information please contact NT Worksafe on 1800 019 115 or go to [worksafe.nt.gov.au](http://worksafe.nt.gov.au)**