

DOC'S BLOCKS
AUTOMOTIVE AIR CONDITIONING REPAIR

Question:

What are the dangers of handling refrigerants?

Answer:

There is always a danger when handling a chemical. It is important to always protect the body. Safety goggles should be worn to protect the eyes. The rest of the body isn't likely to be harmed with exposure to liquid refrigerant unless there is extended exposure to the skin or an allergy problem.

If liquid refrigerant were to escape from a container or the system, it would be very cold. Prolonged exposure can freeze the flesh. If it were to get into the eyes, it would be blinding for a couple days to the rest of ones life. Vapor will blind for a couple days. Liquid refrigerant would be permanent.

Refrigerant, in liquid form, is about 22 degrees below zero. If the refrigerant was flying through the air, it would flash freeze and be about 50 degrees below zero.

Refrigerant containers must be protected from high temperatures. Storage should be less than one hundred twenty-five degrees. Don't leave containers of refrigerant inside a vehicle. Temperatures can get as high as one hundred forty degrees when setting in the sun. Temperatures from radiation can reach one hundred sixty degrees.