



A Little Red in the Face

If you know the science behind what happens when you mix fuel vapor with fire, prepare your best *"I can't believe he did that"* face. If you don't, please read the following story very carefully.

All ready? Here we go ... two maintainers were standing on a flight line. An NC-10 power unit attached to an aircraft they were servicing stopped. "Must be outta gas" they thought, and went to check the fuel level. Since we all know the little needle indicating fuel level is never right, they opened the cap to check the tank itself. But alas, they had no flashlight handy.

What's a man to do when he needs light? "I've got a bright idea" thinks one maintainer, and asks the other for his pocket lighter. After a warning from his friend about the dangers of mixing fire and vapor, you guessed it folks, he leeeaned over the opening and flick, flick, flicked his Bic. The sound effects of "Woosh!", "Foon!", and "Aaaagh!" filled the night air followed by the rotor blades of a medevac helo on it's way to the burn unit.

Two quick things, folks. First, use common sense. Think! Second, if someone warns you about the dangers of what you're about to do ... listen to them. They're probably a lot smarter than you are.