SHARP START

January 6 — Fire & Exposure Hazard

Came into the flammable cabinets both doors wide open exposing content to the outside defeating its purpose	**Employee shut the doors.**

Flammable cabinets only work when they're closed. The steel construction, seals, and fire rating are what slow heat transfer and limit vapor release during a fire or spill. When the doors are left open, the cabinet becomes just a shelf holding flammables in open air. The control is still physically there, but functionally gone.

A cabinet there with doors held wide,
Lets danger out instead of inside.
Close them up, that's what they're for,
So flames stay out and stay next door.

This is a classic case of a control being bypassed without anyone intending to bypass it.

Hazards

- Increased fire and ignition risk
- Faster flame spread if a fire starts nearby
- Vapor exposure in the surrounding area
- Loss of passive fire protection
- Escalation of a small incident into a major event

Stats

- Flammable cabinets are designed to limit internal temperature rise during a fire
- Open storage of flammables significantly increases ignition and spread risk
- Many fire incidents escalate due to **bypassed or defeated controls**
- Passive protection only works when it remains passive and intact

Words of Wisdom

- A control that's open isn't a control.
- Passive protection only works when you leave it alone.

Pause and Think

This wasn't someone removing a safety device — it was someone leaving it in the wrong position. That's what makes it dangerous. The cabinet looked like it was there, so the hazard felt controlled. But safety systems don't work by presence; they work by function. Closing the doors is what turns the cabinet back into protection.

- What controls on our site depend on position to work?
- Which ones can be accidentally defeated?
- How do we make it obvious when a control isn't functioning?