DRY ICE – Handling and Storage

WHAT IS DRY ICE?
Dry ice is a non-combustible, solidified carbon dioxide. Unlike water ice, dry ice does not melt. Dry ice sublimes (turns from solid to gas) releasing carbon dioxide vapour.

WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH DRY ICE?
1. Dry ice is very cold (−78.5°C) and skin contact could result in burns/frostbite.
2. Explosions due to gas build up, could result if dry ice is placed in a sealed container/canister.
3. Dry ice releases large volumes of carbon dioxide as it sublimes.
4. In high concentrations, carbon dioxide is an asphyxiant, it reduces or displaces the normal oxygen concentration.

HOW TO MANAGE THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH DRY ICE?
1. Avoid contact with skin and eyes as it can cause severe frostbite.
2. Never handle dry ice with bare hands - wear insulated (thermal) gloves and use a PLASTIC scoop to transfer dry ice
3. Wear safety glasses when handling dry ice
4. Under NO circumstances is dry ice to be placed into a sealed container. If placed into a container that does not allow release of this gas, it can explode (refer to pictures below) causing personal injury and/or property damage.
5. Store dry ice in an insulated cooler or Styrofoam.
6. Use and store in well ventilated areas.
7. Transport in the rear of the vehicle with a window open.
8. Never leave dry ice in a parked passenger vehicle.