

### DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

#### **Heater Failure Caused Fire**

The infra-red radiant heater mounted on the ceiling above the VDA lube system failed. Video surveillance shows that the element failed, causing a shower of sparks which ignited electrical wiring and foam insulation. Maintenance employees saw the smoke and notified the Supervisor and extinguished the fire and a fire watch was assigned.



### SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Investigate installing a ground fault indicator to shut down the power.
- Seek an alternate safer model of heater.
- Inspect all heaters to ensure they are mounted correctly, in a safe location, in good working order and have protective screens and disconnect switches.
- Consider installing timer switches on all heaters to eliminate heater failures when employees are absent.

### IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Heater failures create the potential for catastrophic fires. Review the current procedures for heater use and develop safe procedures and engineering controls to minimize or eliminate the potential for fires.

