

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Fire from Hot Work Hazard

Employee was grinding and welding cracks on a step feeder.

The spark-watch was downstairs watering down the area below when he noticed a small fire under the log bin by the canter infeed conveyor. The fire started in the framework of the conveyors in the basement and flashed up to the main floor through the opening between the two conveyors.

By the time the spark-watch accessed the area of the fire it had grown significantly.

The fire was extinguished in a few minutes.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Sparks from the grinding travelled past the wet down area to a conveyor which is an auto oiled conveyor. This always has oil on the slides, chain, and pan.
- The welder, spark-watch and supervisor did not see the conveyor as a hazard due to the distance from the hot work.
- Oily areas near hot work must be factored in prior to starting hot work.
- Removal of all combustibles in a 35' sphere of the hot work is the standard for safety.

Important Take Away

Removal of all combustibles in the hot work zone will help to eliminate fires.

