

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
"Could it happen here?"

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Cyclone Fire - Pelletizer

A cold spell with temperatures as low as minus 40C caused a blockage in the particle exhaust of a cyclone used to cool pellets from the cooling bin on pelletizer 1.

An external heater was used to melt the ice blockage on the exterior cyclone. There are no procedures in place for the use of an external heater. The procedures for clearing ice blockages such as drilling and chipping ice were not followed.

A fire started in the cyclone caused by the external heater. The fire was observed at the cyclone, the cyclone fan was shut down and water was added to extinguish the fire.

Critical controls functioned as designed however circumventing the process flow left a gap where an abort system functioned but did not provide deluge at the same time.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Review the management of the change process with employees with an emphasis on when introducing new hazards such as open flame to a combustible dust process.
- Ensure all critical controls function as intended and are expected to.
- Review critical controls inspection criteria.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

- Review the management of change process with employees an emphasis on hazards that can occur when set procedures are not followed.
- Do not Introduce high hazards such as open flame, grinding, welding, outside of process flow without understanding you might be circumventing the critical controls.



BC Forest Safety

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