

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Sawmill fire in a Barker

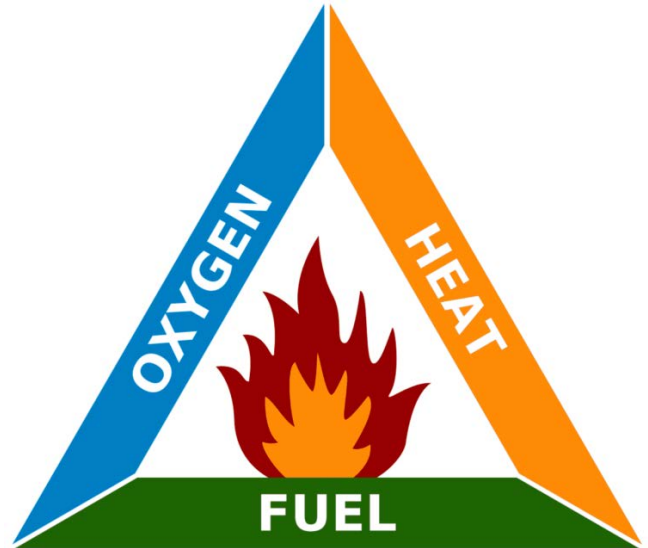
During scheduled maintenance on the Barker, a millwright noticed the feedrolls on set #2 needed to be fixed. During the inspection, it was also noticed the kidney plates were starting to wear on set #4.

A replacement set of kidney plates were located in the stores. The millwright realized the store set were not the correct size and decided to modify the bottom plate and use it for the top plate. The modifications were made outside of the Barker and once they were completed, the modified plates were tack-welded in place. Further modifications were required, so the welder and the millwright decided to use a cutting torch inside the Barker to make the adjustments.

The Barker was locked out and the air was turned on to make it easier to install the kidney plates. While cutting with the torch, a piece of slag fell onto the air line. The workers heard a hissing sound as the slag was burning into the air line. The compressed air fuelled the burning slag and it quickly turned into a large fire.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Prior to starting any **hot work**, ensure all combustibles are removed from the work area. Check inside the machines to identify combustible material that hasn't been removed.
- Ensure workers understand the lockout requirements.
- Ensure equipment can be pinned/ mechanically locked in positions required to effectively work on the machine.
- Ensure workers are trained in **Field Level Hazard Assessments (FLHA)**.



Most Important Take Away

- When conditions change in maintenance activities, stop and perform a new FLHA to ensure all hazards and risks are identified.
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