

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Worker Splashed with Hot Water

A deluge system activated causing a blend chamber to fill with hot water.

A worker was tasked to open the blend chamber slide gate and empty the hot water from the system. The side gate was plugged with ash preventing drainage. The worker positioned themselves inside the framework of the cone and struck the blend chamber chute with a hammer dislodging the blockage and releasing several 100 gallons of hot water. Due to the worker's location inside of the cone's framework, they were unable to move in time before the flood of hot water soaked them.

The skin on the worker's upper body and forearms became bright red but no significant burns were sustained.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Review and update procedures emptying residual deluge water from the process system.
- Implement a daily Preventative Maintenance (PM) procedure to open the slide gate to eliminate the chance of ash buildup.
- Review with supervisors and workers the importance of completing a Field-level Hazard Assessment (FLHA) for any non-routine or upset condition tasks
- Consider redesigning the blend chamber area to eliminate potential congestion and provide workers with a safe location to open the side gate.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Consider redesigning the blend chamber area to eliminate congestion and provide workers with a safe location to open the side gate.

