

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

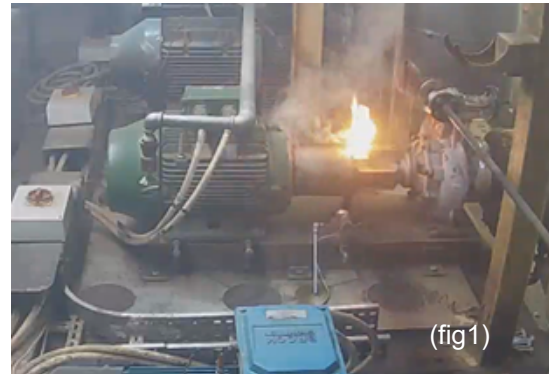
DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

High Potential Incident – Thermal Oil

A mechanical seal in a primary thermal oil transfer pump began to fail causing it to smoke and leak oil.

After investigating the issue, operators followed procedure by isolating the thermal oil supply using the slam shuts and shut down the pump. Once it stopped, the thermal oil ignited into a small flame (fig1) and was swiftly extinguished and the boundary area cooled with the foam system (fig2).

After the incident, the area was continuously monitored until it was determined it was safe to turn off the foam system and start up the standby transfer pump to get production restarted.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Upgrade pumps. Change out old pumps and have serialized on delivery.
- Add hot/cold alignment to Safe System of Work (SSOW) before a pump is released back into production.
- Replace the failed pump with spare and hot/cold alignment.
- Install automatic foam extinguishers for each thermal oil pump.
- Install pre-fabricated custom guarding to added extinguishers.

IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Install automatic foam extinguishers for each thermal oil pump.

