MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
"Could it happen here?"

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Hot Work - Class III Fire

A fire broke out on a conveyor used to transfer residuals. Employees quickly responded by activating the fire alarm and applying water to the flames. The fire department was called for additional support.

Earlier that day, hot work had been performed on a chute that feeds into the running conveyor. All required precautions were followed under the High-Risk Area Hot Work Permit requirements. Fire blankets were used to block the chute and prevent sparks from reaching the conveyor and the area was wetted down and closely monitored. The last visible spark was recorded at 1:15 PM, and no signs of smoldering or fire were observed during the hourly checks.

After the fire was extinguished, a block of wood was discovered at the ignition point, showing signs of friction burns from contact with the moving belt. The exact cause of the fire is unknown as to whether it was due to the hot work or friction from the conveyor.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Shut down conveyors that could carry sparks to nearby or distant combustible materials during hot work.
- Inspect and clean enclosed equipment or duct work to remove all combustible materials and ensure nothing is lodged or impacted inside.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Sparks or smoulders may be carried along conveyor systems to distant areas containing combustible materials. These systems must be regularly inspected for impacted material that may lead to friction fires. During hot work, conveyors need to shut down to prevent the propagation of spark of fire.

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BC Forest Safety

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