

2022-024 Brake cleaner vapor causes facial burns

Background

(High Potential incident) At approximately 3:00pm on Monday the 31/10/2022, a Georgiou Boilermaker at the Plant Department was preparing to install a bearing race into a truck brake drum, using heat from an oxy/acetylene torch to expand the recess so the new bearing race could be inserted.

As part of the preparation the boilermaker cleaned the recess with brake cleaner from a pump bottle and wiped it down.

They then bent over the brake drum and lit the torch, immediately igniting the highly flammable brake cleaner vapor in the drum, which has blown up into the IPs face.

First aid was administered, IP was taken to our medical provider where they were treated by a burn's specialist for first degree burns. IP is expected to make a full recovery.

For further information contact Paul Dickenson (HSE Manager) on 0438 805 177.



Actions Required

- All projects are to ensure the hazards associated with handling and use of hazardous chemicals and hot work are risk assessed, including:
 - Personnel working with hazardous chemicals are provided with information and training concerning those materials as detailed in the SDS.
 - Current SDS is readily available when handling and persons are fully aware of hazards.
 - Controls stipulated in the SDS are applied when handling and using.
 - When conducting hot work, impact resistant clear face shield with medium impact safety glasses/goggles shall be worn.
- Incident Alert to be discussed at toolboxes and placed on site notice boards.



Practical Guidance

- Further information can be found in:
 - Project specific Management Plans
 - [Hot Work Operations](#)
 - [Hazardous Chemicals Procedure](#)



Approved By

Paul Dickenson (HSE Manager) DATE: 02/11/2022

Date to be removed from noticeboard: DATE: 02/12/2022