



Learning Event



Flash Ignition

Hazard

Flammable /
Combustible Materials

led to

Unwanted Event

Flash Ignition

Description

During the replacement of a rig pump, the crew were cleaning the pump liners with brake cleaner. At the same time heat was being applied to a hammer union 3.4 meters away. The brake cleaner vapours were ignited causing a flash flame.



Risk Event Statement

Due to the presence of a heat source in the vicinity of using flammable / combustible material, ignition of the material may occur, which could lead to serious injury.

Habits

- ✓ Permit issued for Hot Works
- ✓ Equipment isolated and locked out
- ✗ Hazards associated with concurrent work not assessed
- ✗ Combustible material exclusion zone not established

Learnings

The pump liners were being changed at the same time a fitting was being heated up for change out.

Vapour from the cleaning fluid came in contact with an ignition source (hot metal) causing a flash flame.

There was a flow path to the ignition source and the vapours were explosive when mixed with air.

Considerations

- > Formalise the review of Safety Data Sheets for hazardous chemical use.
- > Re-iterate responsibilities under the Permit through training.

Could this happen to you?

- > What separation distance does your site apply for hot works?
- > When a work scope changes do we stop and reassess the task being undertaken?
- > When you are on working under a Permit, do you know what is required of you?

Was this Bulletin useful?