



HOT WORK

What is HOT WORK? Basically , hot work is any operation or task that produces a flame , heat or sparks such as electric or gas welding, abrasive cutting, soldering, grinding, torch work and brazing activities. This includes torches, arc welding equipment , portable grinders and propane torches. This also includes non-rated electrical tools and equipment when used in a hazardous environment.

The industries in which we are employed, hot work is part of our daily , weekly or monthly activities. If you work in a Major Hazardous Installation , the risk of performing hot work in a zoned area poses tremendous risk to your business. It is therefore critical that as a health and safety practioner the status of your facility is known i.e is it a hazardous installation or not, which areas are likely to contain flammable materials and the zoning of each area. This will provide better understanding to the protection measures which will be need when issuing a permit. If you are not sure of the status of your facility you may contact MHI Risk Engineers for an evaluation.

There are two types of hot work locations :

1. Temporary location by issuing a Hot Work Permit. A hot work permit is a legal document used to authorize hot work, provide checks and balances and identify and eliminate risk to fire. The permit is displayed to let others know that hot work is in progress.
2. Designated Hot Work Sites. These sites are :
 - clearly marked with visible signage “Designated Hot Work Site”,
 - are formally evaluated and meet the requirements of the International Fire Code,
 - Will only be used by trained and authorized individuals,
 - the inspection and verification must be conducted by a competent person.

In our video for the month we note what can go wrong when the risks of performing Hot Work is not conducted effectively. During a plant

Shutdown there is lots of pressure on staff to issue hot work permits “quickly” to prevent delays in starting the job. This can be a very costly mistake. As part of the shut down planning it is advisable that high risk permits be identified and assigned to a competent person. The preparation of the permit should take place before the shut down e.g what checks are required, what isolations are needed to be in place, a discussion with the operations staff to identify additional hazards etc. This will make the process seamless and quick with minimal delays.

The video shows that workers performed hot work on a vessel containing flammable material . The hot work ignited the flammable inside the tank material killing three workers.

The video can be viewed at

<http://www.mhiriskengineers.com/news>



News from around the world

Chlorine Leak Forces Evacuation

A HazMat situation led to an evacuation of the area around the Oxarc Company in north Lewiston, ID, Wednesday after a chlorine leak, officials said.

The call turned into a hazmat situation that prompted the evacuation of local businesses and some nearby residents.

An employee reported hearing a hissing sound from a 150-pound chlorine tank and the worker called 911 and evacuated the building, said Deputy Fire Chief Gaylon Waits.

Fire Officials said no one suffered an injury in the incident.

According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the extent of poisoning caused by chlorine depends on the amount a person is exposed to, how the person was exposed, and the length of time of the exposure.

When chlorine gas comes into contact with your eyes, throat, and lungs, an acid is produced that can damage these tissues. You can decontaminate by washing the exposed areas. If it's severe seek medical help.

STORAGE TANK FIRE THAT PROMPTED STATE ASSISTANCE IS OUT

News outlets report the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management said in a statement that the blaze was extinguished around 5 a.m. Sunday after all-night efforts by local fire departments and state agencies.

Gov. Jim Justice had ordered that all necessary state resources be used to help battle the blaze that began Saturday afternoon when lightning struck a storage tank that holds 1 million gallons (3.8 million liters) of natural gas condensate.

The tank is owned by Dominion Resources and is near the town of Friendly in Tyler County.

No injuries were reported, and Dominion Energy says there's no threat to public safety.

Just for the FUN of it

I made a Chemistry Joke...



There was no reaction.

Services offered:

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