



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 11 – 15

WELDING OPERATION RESULTS IN A FIRE IN THE STORE ROOM

WHAT HAPPENED:

Welders were trimming a guidepost located on the roof of the rig's storeroom. The insulation installed on the underside of the storeroom roof that was located below the area of hot work ignited and began to smolder, emitting a large volume of toxic smoke. The store room sustained extensive smoke damage but, more importantly, there was a potential loss of rig equipment, materials and loss of life.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The Job Hazard Analysis did not take into consideration the effect of the hotwork on the surroundings.
- No consideration was given to the previous installation of expanding foam sealant on the ceiling of storeroom to serve as insulation.
- No consideration was given that the foam material would burn if heat was applied to it.
- No fire watch was assigned in the storeroom during hotwork operation on the guidepost located on the roof of the storeroom.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- Instructed rig personnel that during the JSA process, the surrounding area (including up and down) must be taken into consideration during the planning phase.
- Emphasized the importance of assigning a fire watch on the side of wall or roof opposite the welding/cutting operation.
- Instructed rig personnel that anytime a product is used in the construction, maintenance or repair process, it must be determined how the product will respond to potential situations that may arise in that area.
- Issued a maintenance bulletin stating that at no time shall "Expanding Foam" type insulation be used as an insulator, unless it meets NFPA A-6 specifications.
- Instructed rig maintenance personnel to inspect their rig and ensure that expanding foam is not being used inappropriately.

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices

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