

Lessons Learned



— MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS —

Date: 1/24/2022

Region: Seattle

Project: AGP

Incident Title: Confined Space Equipment

Summary

Apollo Foremen Plumber was working nightshift on a confined space project. They were using confined space gear rented from a supplier.

When the crew first turned the fan on, it tripped the circuit breaker. The crew turned the fan on again and proceeded to enter the confined space. After 15 minutes into using the fan, it caught on fire.

The confined space attendant immediately pulled out the entrant.



What Went Right?

- The confined space attendant recognized and corrected the issue immediately
- Worker exited the confined space immediately, and did not enter again before getting a new fan

What Went Wrong?

- Motors and other components overheating generally cause circuit breakers to trip, and can be a sign of a faulty/defective fan
- No backup in case required equipment failed during night shift

Lessons Learned

- Motors and other components overheating generally cause circuit breakers to trip, and can be a sign of a faulty/defective fan
- Inspect all electrical equipment for damage to motors, cables, switches, or improper wiring
- Test required equipment before a night shift when it cannot be replaced