

Lessons Learned

Date: 4/18/2023

Region: Oak Ridge Tn.

Project: UPF V-154 Y-12

Incident Title: Near Miss Smoldering Rag

Summary

While setting up a welding operation in the morning the task was moved to a different location within the barricaded work area. Upon completion of the initial hazard assessment, the crew went to lunch.

After lunch the crew returned to the work area, resumed their weld preparations, then started welding. While on lunch break a cart was placed within their barricaded work area. When the crew started welding, some sparks fell on to the cart and a rag that was on the cart. The rag began to smolder and smoke.

Picture



What Went Right?

- Firewatch called attention to the smell.
- Rag was located quickly and pulled out and water was applied.
- Foreman activated the calling tree.
- GC was notified / Onsite fire dept.
- No damage was caused to the facility, personnel, or equipment.

What Went Wrong?

- The crew did not walk down and re-evaluate the work area for hazards or changed conditions after returning from lunch.
- Area was congested with Knaack boxes that should have been moved.
- Firewatch did not position himself to allow a full view of the complete area where the sparks were falling.

Lessons Learned

- Called immediate safety stand down to discuss the reassessment of work areas after breaks and lunch.
- Discussed the fire watches placement in the area to be able to see all potential hazards.
- Retrain fire watches about hazard awareness. Continuous Improvement on evaluation of the work areas.
- Conducting more frequent audits of the hot work areas.