

Mission Success Starts With Safety



SSC Monthly Construction Contractor Meeting

Safety Presentation

Hot Work Safety

April 07, 2022



Hot Work Safety



SACOM Safety Bulletin and NASA Safety Center (NSC)

On February 24, 2022, at Michoud Assembly Facility (MAF) approximately 10:30 AM, an employee working from an aerial lift was torching crane rails in Building 103. Sparks from the torching operation started a fire in the fire protection blanket which was draped around the aerial lift.

Safe Plan of Action

The fire was suppressed using fire extinguishers and a water bucket by the work crew. Security was notified and dispatched the local fire department to respond to the scene. No injury or property damage occurred from this mishap. Thankfully, the work crew was prepared in case of a fire.

Torching activities are considered hot work, which are permit-required activities. There are many areas to consider when planning hot work activities. Remember that all scheduled hot work needs to include proper fire protection, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and a fire watch. Prior to any hot work being performed, you must ensure that all fire hazards, including combustible materials, are removed or protected with guarding to confine any heat and sparks. Fire extinguishing equipment, including the proper portable fire extinguisher and buckets of water or sand, must be immediately accessible in case a fire is produced. Knowing what is required in the hot work permit and being properly trained are imperative for hot work activities to be completed safely.

Hot Work Safety

SACOM
SAFETY BULLETIN

At MAF on 02/24/2022, at approximately 10:30 AM, an SS Contractor working from an aerial lift was torching cover rolls in B103. Sparks from the torching operation started a fire in the fire protection blanket draped around the aerial lift. No injuries occurred from the mishap.

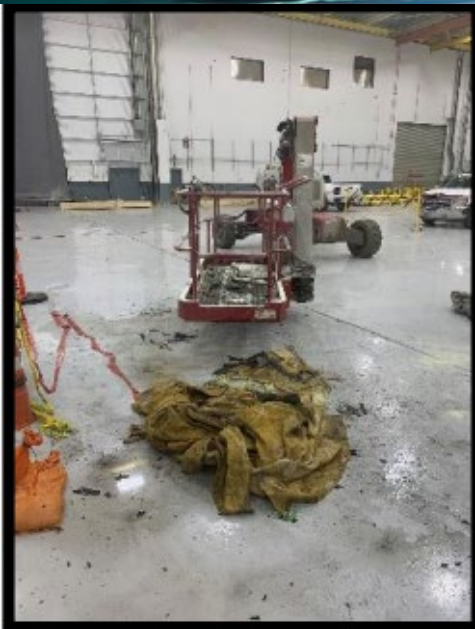


Tips to avoid mishaps like this:

- Use fire rated thermal blankets or curtains to cover combustibles that must remain inside the 35-ft. radius of the hot work area
- Always have a verified fire extinguisher present, and ensure the staff is trained to properly use it
- Perform regular housekeeping inspections to ensure area is clean of combustibles and flammable material/chemicals
- Maintain a fire watch after welding or cutting operations to detect and extinguish possible smoldering fires.

Remember, hazard identification and mitigation are keys to your safety!

SSC's Hot Work Program Procedure Requirements are outlined in Work Instruction [SCWI-8838-0002](#)



Photos of the mishap were included in the SACOM Safety Bulletin which was sent to all employees. The bulletin included information for avoiding future hot work mishaps.

HOT WORK PERMIT/FIRE HAZARD INCIDENTS AT NASA

Most mishaps can be avoided when operators follow the proper protocol of obtaining a hot work permit and removing potential fire hazards before starting work. Here are examples of incidents that have occurred:

- ❖ A Class A fire caused building damage when paper and trash ignited outdoors. No hot work permit was obtained and there were no fire extinguishers available at the work location.
- ❖ An employee was welding without a hot work permit, unknowingly near an area with stored explosives. A fatal explosion could have occurred if a hot spark had contacted the explosives.
- ❖ An auditor identified poor housekeeping, including loose papers, trash and debris, in a storage area for explosives, which presented a fire hazard.

