



Safety Alert

INCIDENT TITLE: Hot Work (grinding) Near Flammable Liquid

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT: 6th July 2016

INCIDENT DETAIL

A Contractor was grinding steel in the immediate vicinity of a full bottle of methylated spirits and a rubbish bin containing paper and rags. Sparks spread from the cutting action made contact with the rubbish bin and methylated spirits bottle and could have resulted in a fire.

A fire extinguisher was not in place at the work site.

No specific documented risk assessment had been carried out for the work and a Hot Work Authority was not in place.

The contractor incorrectly believed the Hot Work Authority taken out for other works on the site covered this cutting task.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Prior to carrying out any hot work (grinding, gas cutting, welding, drilling, use of a heat gun) on Meridian property (except designated workshops) the following needs to be carried out:

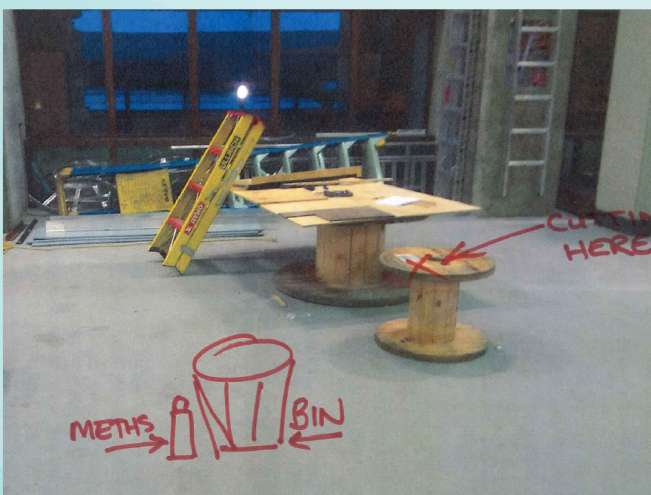
- The recipient needs to assess the risks of the work and the surrounding area as part of the Work Site Safety Planning process.
- A Hot Work Authority needs to be prepared and approved by a competent Meridian team member.
- The recipient needs to brief the other work party members on the details of the Hot Work Authority before work commences.
- Prior to or at any change to the works the worker needs to Take 5 and consider the risks in the work area, removing any hazards before progressing with the task.
- The area of work should be checked for heat/fire during the work, immediately after the work and 30 minutes after all hot work is completed.

BEST PRACTICE

All hot work should be discussed at the Site Morning Meetings.

It is best practice and recommended that prior to the issue of the Hot Work Authority the approver visits the work site with the recipient and they jointly assess the risks.

PHOTOGRAPHS



IMMEDIATE INTERIM ACTIONS

Upon observing the hazard on this site the work was immediately stopped and the area was made safe.

Meridian and contractor teams who carry out hot work should be briefed on this Safety Alert including the requirements for carrying out hot works and the use of the Hot Work Authority.

This Safety Alert is issued by the Corporate Safety & Health Team. For further information please contact:

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