



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 98-21

Welding Shop Trash Cans

WHAT HAPPENED:

A garbage can located in the welding shop of an offshore rig caught fire. The can was located beneath a set of cutting hoses. The fire burned through the hoses and ignited the acetylene inside. Fortunately, the acetylene tank regulator was shut off. This kept the fire from building to a substantial size, though it created a lot of smoke.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

After investigating the incident, the contractor instituted a policy that no trashcans are allowed in the welding shop. With a fire watch usually not present in the welding shop and with the amount of grinding, cutting and welding done there, the contractor was concerned that a trash fire might go unnoticed until it was out of control.

The contractor recommended that trashcans be kept behind a door, barrier or otherwise out of reach of grinder spray, cutting torch or welding machine slag.

Cans or barrels for scrap metal are allowed in the welding shop, but must be labeled "Not A Trashcan" or "Metal Items Only."

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.

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