

Safety ALERT!

Fire caused second degree burns to hand from re-fueling pump

WHAT HAPPENED?

A worker was using a 20 litre fuel container to refuel a 2-inch flexi drive dewatering pump. During the procedure, petrol splashed onto the worker's hand, the lower sleeve of his work shirt and on to the hot exhaust causing the fuel to ignite. This resulted in his shirt sleeve catching fire and his hand being burnt.

The worker was taken by ambulance to the emergency department and he was assessed by a burns specialist who determined he had received 2nd degree burns to his hand. The worker was released from the ED the same day.

- The pump had been running for approximately 4 hours before the incident occurred and the engine had been turned off immediately prior to the refueling taking place
- A pouring spout was used on the petrol container during refueling



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- The hot engine exhaust had produced radiant heat as an ignition source
- The 20L petrol container was full making it difficult to direct fuel into the tank
- The work shirt being worn by the injured person caught fire and partially melted
- The risk was not identified and therefore not considered or controlled

IMPROVEMENTS

While this incident is being investigated, the following improvements are being implemented and/or being considered:

- A small petrol container (10 Litre) has been purchased and is now being used
- Leather gloves have been provided and are used while refueling
- The risks associated with re-fueling have now been identified on the site risk register
- Fill fuel tanks slowly to avoid overflow and spillages
- Shut down engine and allow the equipment to cool down (approx. 5-10 minutes)
- Re-assess the method of de-watering where possible and consider using diesel pumps

Date of issue:

7th February 2019

Issue No:

0010