

METAL/NONMETAL Serious Accident Alert

Surface – Lime – On May 9, 2018, a miner was burned while lighting a gas-fired kiln. Gas accumulated inside the kiln before the pilot light was inserted through an opening in the hood. When the main burner ignited, the flame propagated to the area outside the kiln through the hood opening, catching the worker's shirt on fire. The miner suffered significant burns and will require a lengthy hospitalization. The green jacket-draped chair in the image shows where the worker was positioned when the flame blow-back occurred.



Best Practices

- Wear appropriate flame-protective clothing while igniting kiln fuel burners and pilot lights.
- Close up all openings in the kiln hood that are not required for igniting the main burner.
- Use a pilot light long enough to extend from the tip of the main burner to a safe location outside the kiln.
- Ignite the pilot light before introducing fuel into the kiln through the main burner. Pre-position the pilot light near the tip of the main burner, insert the pilot through a small opening in the kiln hood and secure it in place outside the kiln.
- Open the main fuel valve or start the main fuel feeder supply after the pilot light is in place.
- Observe the fuel flame and adjust the pilot light position from a safe location. A two-person team is recommended so if the main burner fails to light, or snuffs out the pilot flame, the main fuel supply can be promptly shut off to minimize the accumulation of unburned fuel inside the kiln.



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