

# Alert

Health Safety Environment 31.08.2022



## BBQ Gas Leak and Fire

### What happened?

The subcontractor team was in its site container preparing for the day's work at Hawkins' Wynyard Quarter site. LPG gas from a BBQ, that had leaked into the container overnight, has ignited causing a fire. Initial indications are the ignition source may have come from a heat source such as an electric ignitor on the BBQ or cigarette lighter.

Following the fire, immediate first aid was provided to the team and the fire was contained using nearby fire extinguishers. The team were transported to hospital for further treatment. The incident scene was secured, and an investigation commenced.



### What did we learn?

- An explosion or fire can be caused by the accumulation of gas in enclosed spaces when combined with oxygen and an ignition source. Ignition sources can include electrical sparks (including from light switches) and cigarettes, as well as open flames.
- Flammable products such as LPG and welding gases should be stored in well ventilated areas, preferably in the open or in dedicated storage areas. Conduct regular site inspections to confirm.
- The Project team had a designated smoking area and information around smoking Policy in their induction. It is important to regularly reinforce these requirements in toolbox talks and when monitoring the site.
- Any BBQs used on site must be used and stored according to manufacturer guidelines, and should be used in the site dedicated, outdoor location.

Review these questions with your team at your next pre-start meeting

**Stand  
in the  
Gap**

Would this initiative be useful in your area?

What would you need to do to implement it?

How can you 'Stand in the Gap'?