

Safety alert

Lorry fire – BPO Resin Hardener.

Incident Details

WHILST DRIVING TO SITE ON 23RD JUNE, THE DRIVER NOTICED SMOKE COMING FROM THE COMPRESSOR AREA. ONCE HE HAD PULLED OVER AND WENT TO THE SIDE OF THE COMPRESSOR UNIT, HE FOUND THE STORAGE UNIT BELOW TO BE ON FIRE. THE FIRE WAS QUICKLY PUT OUT USING THE 6KG FIRE EXTINGUISHER ON BOARD. NO LASTING DAMAGE WAS CAUSED AND THE DRIVER & PASSENGER WERE BOTH UNHARMED.

INVESTIGATION FINDINGS



STORAGE AREA
BENEATH
COMPRESSOR

THE COMPRESSOR HAD NOT BEEN USED AND SO NO EXTERNAL SOURCES OF IGNITION / HEAT WERE PRESENT. HOWEVER, IT IS BELIEVED THAT A BAG OF BPO RESIN HARDENER PRODUCT HAD BEEN LEFT BENEATH THE COMPRESSOR FROM PREVIOUS WORKS.

THE SAFETY DATA SHEET FOR THE BPO RESIN HARDENER PRODUCT STATES THAT THIS PRODUCT MUST BE STORED AWAY FROM HEAT, NAKED FLAMES AND ALSO IN COOL VENTILATED AREAS BETWEEN 5°C AND 25°C. THE OUTSIDE WEATHER TEMPERATURE ON THE AFTERNOON / EVENING WHEN THE DRIVER LEFT FOR SITE HAD REACHED APPROX. 30°C, MEANING THAT THE TEMPERATURE WITHIN THE METAL STORAGE AREA BENEATH THE COMPRESSOR COULD HAVE REACHED TEMPERATURES IN EXCESS OF 30°C, CAUSING THE BPO PRODUCT TO SLOWLY SELF COMBUST / CATCH FIRE.

REACTIVE MEASURES FROM THE COMPANY CONCERNED.

WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, ALL COMBUSTIBLE / FLAMMABLE MATERIALS (INCLUDING BPO) ARE TO BE REMOVED FROM WORK VEHICLES AND STORED INSIDE DEPOTS BETWEEN SHIFTS. WHEN STORED ON VEHICLES, THEY ARE TO BE STORED AWAY FROM HEAT, SPARKS AND NAKED FLAMES IN WELL VENTILATED AREAS. IN WEATHER OF EXTREME TEMPERATURES, COVER THE MATERIALS TO PROTECT FROM DIRECT SUNLIGHT.

This safety alert has been prepared by the RSTA.

For further information regarding this safety alert please email: roxy@rsta-uk.org