



Nippon Yakin Kogyo

Award: Safety
Category: Accident analysis

Lessons learned from a fire that happened at the dust collector

Challenge

At our Kawasaki plant, we are promoting the prevention of industrial accidents and health disorders with the aim putting safety first. The objective of our comprehensive safety activities is to achieve a safe work place without any risks as well as to promote both physical and mental health. However, we had an involuntary fire accident which occurred at a dust collector. During our periodic maintenance, we used an electric drill to repair a crack which happened at the hanging beam of the dust removal device. While the repairman was using an electric drill, he noticed a lot of smoke from the filter cloth below the hanging beam and made an emergency call. This fire caused us to revise our safety training plan as well as our own regulations with regard to treating high temperature substances including electric tools such as the electric drill.

Action

We revised our own regulations and training plan with regard to preventing a fire and all relevant employees also had an emergency training. The facilities director gave a strict warning to the employees who caused this fire accident (including our contractors). Accordingly, all employees of the facility division had an emergency training. Furthermore, all employees including other divisions received a lecture about this fire incident. Making our own regulations stricter required specifying prevention methods of fire for each construction or repair and the drill which has being newly defined as a substance which could cause fire. Basically, using fire itself and the tools could cause fire was strictly prohibited inside the dust collector. In this revision, when using them inside dust collector unavoidably, removing all inflammables (including filter cloths and metal dust) and using flame retardant fabric are necessary. Hereafter the fire prevention training will be conducted three times a year.

Outcome

The thorough training improved our awareness of fire risks. Making our own regulations stricter has reducing the possibility of fire.