



September 16 — Keep Combustibles Away From Hot Work

Employee was grinding on the second floor above the grating and had a cart below with solvents and paint thinners below them	Had them stop and go move the cart away from where they were working
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Don't Let Sparks Find the Fuel

An employee was grinding on the second floor while a cart containing solvents and paint thinners was positioned below the work area. Grinding creates sparks and hot particles that can travel beyond the immediate work area.

With flammable materials directly below the grinding operation, there was a potential for sparks or hot material to reach the solvents or paint thinners and create a fire hazard.

The work was stopped and the cart was moved away from the area before grinding continued. Taking a moment to look beyond the immediate work area helped identify a hazard that could easily have been overlooked.

Before starting grinding or other hot work, look above, below, and around your work area for anything that could catch fire.

Hazards

- Fire from sparks contacting flammable materials
- Flammable liquids exposed to hot work
- Sparks traveling through grating
- Fire spreading to nearby materials
- Property damage and potential injury

Words of Wisdom

Hot work hazards don't always stay where the work is happening. Look above, below, and around your work area and remove anything that sparks or hot material could ignite.

Pause and Think

- What is directly below your grinding or hot work area?
- Are there solvents, paint, or other flammable materials nearby?
- Can sparks or hot particles travel to another level?
- Have you checked above, below, and around your work area?
- What needs to be moved before hot work begins?

Closing Thought

Hot work doesn't stop at the edge of your work area. Look around, look below, and remove anything that could give a spark a place to start a fire.