

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Thermal Oil - Fire

After a hot alignment, a thermal oil pump caught fire upon restart. The pump had been running normally, but the restart was deferred to ensure qualified personnel were available for monitoring.

Minutes after restarting, an open flame developed, which the standby crew quickly extinguished.

This mechanical failure did not result in oil containment loss. The pump was a newly rebuilt, non-OEM ((Original Equipment Manufacturer) unit, as the original was obsolete. As a precaution, since the pump was a rebuild, a foam cart and standby personnel were readied for fire suppression.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Prioritize safety over production when planning.
- Carefully monitor rebuilt or non-OEM thermal oil components.
- Use OEM equipment and parts whenever possible.
- Enhance quality assurance/control programs to prevent new equipment failures. programs to avoid new equipment failures.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Safety planning and preparation prevented this situation from escalating.

