

Safety Alert: Fire in Burnley PQT yard

A significant fire occurred recently at our PQT facility in Burnley. The fire caused damage to a number of shipping containers that were stored in the yard area. A root cause investigation has established that the cause of the fire was an exothermic reaction of Polyurethane foam, this transferred heat to a nearby wooden crate containing waste Polypropylene causing it to ignite. The fire quickly spread to the nearby containers. Fortunately, emergency procedures were correctly followed and the Fire Services were notified, they attended site and managed to extinguish the fire soon after arrival.

A full investigation is underway and a review of our procedures for working with PU foam is being completed. Further information will be issued following these reviews.

Section of PU foam, smouldering following cutting.



Location of quench bath that ignited nearby waste.



Lessons Learned

- Only trained and competent personnel should undertake PU foam applications and disposal of foam waste.
- PU foam waste should be treated with care due to the potential fire risk and waste foam should always be disposed off in designated areas.
- Housekeeping should always be maintained to a high standard, combustible materials should be kept clear of the work area.
- Dry powder/water fire extinguishers should always be available in the work area when working with PU foam.

- ▶ WHAT CAN YOU DO TO CREATE A SAFER WORKPLACE?
- ▶ CAN YOU DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY?
- ▶ CAN YOU DO DIFFERENT THINGS?
- ▶ WILL YOU MAKE AND MEET COMMITMENTS TO SEEK OUT BEST PRACTICES AND PUT THEM TO USE?