

Safety Flash

Delayed Coker XV-420 Valve Incident

Summary of Event:

- Contractor was setup to pull malfunctioning valve actuator.
- JHA was filled out for the job.
- Bolts were very tight, using penetrating oil to loosen up bolts.
- Oil seeped down valve stem, where 600# steam purges provided a hot surface around the stem to ignite the oil.
- Very small event, put out with extinguisher by contractor.

Preliminary Findings:

- JHA was completed; mentioned body position when using penetrating oil and to avoid contact with skin.
- Penetrating oil container had warning labels mentioning it is flammable and has petroleum distillates in it.
- The hazard of the oil igniting due to the hot surface located below the scaffold was not recognized.

Learnings/Recommendations:

- This penetrating oil is used throughout the complex. When using this and other oils, be aware of hot surfaces that the oil may come in contact with.

- When working above grade, remember to consider the hazards that could be below the work you are performing. In these cases, 'Survey Your Surroundings' will require surveying more than what you can see from the actual job site.

Discussion Question:

Are there other products used on your unit that are heat sensitive? Washdown soaps? Others?

