



SAFETYGRAM NO. 36/03

Oxygen Near Miss January 24, 2003

Description:

A worker was observed blowing oxygen into the welding hood of a co-worker who was welding on a pipe. This was stopped immediately. All three occupants of the tented area were interviewed and stated that the welder's hood was fogging up and the oxygen was being used to keep the lens clear. It was then explained to them that the potential existed for a flash fire in the welder's clothes, under his hood and in his lungs as a result of the high concentration of oxygen in those areas.

Corrective Actions Taken:

1) Immediate stoppage of work. 2) The prime contractor was directed to conduct a safety stand down with their subcontractor immediately and with the prime's personnel when they return on Monday. 3) This subject matter will be added to the site specific safety training for all new hires to the project. 4) A subcontractor doing similar work has also been directed to have a stand down meeting Monday.

Learnings To Share:

Although oxygen in normal concentrations is necessary to sustain life, it can also be potentially hazardous in concentrations above normal breathing amounts or in conditions where high levels of heat or a major ignition source is present. We cannot assume that all our workers are aware of the potential hazards of even this type of substance and must include them in our training.

The picture below is a reenactment



SOURCE: Cal Dive International, Inc.

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