



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. Fatal Fireworks Disassembly Explosion and Fire
Recommendation Number:	2011-06-I-HI-R11
Date Issued:	January 17, 2013
Recipient:	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
New Status:	Closed – Acceptable Action
Date of Status Change:	March 30, 2023

Recommendation Text:

Effectively participate in the National Fire Protection Association's standard development process to develop guidance on the safe and environmentally sound disposal of fireworks, as recommended under recommendation 2011-06-I-HI-R7.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On April 8, 2011, an explosion and fire occurred inside a storage magazine leased by Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. (DEI) at Waikele Self Storage in Waipahu, Hawaii. DEI used the magazine for seized fireworks storage and disposal related activities. As a result of the explosion and fire, five DEI personnel inside the magazine were fatally injured and a sixth sustained minor injuries.

As a part of its investigation, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) reviewed the hazardous solid waste disposal regulations promulgated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) pertaining to the disposal of fireworks and the issuance of emergency permits for these disposal activities. The CSB concluded that RCRA emergency permits lack appropriate safety management practices. As the DEI firework disposal operation evolved and major hazards were introduced from disassembling and accumulating firework components, the emergency hazardous waste permit included no requirements to review safety aspects of these critical changes. Based on the findings of the investigation, the Board voted on January 17, 2013, to issue three recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This status change summary addresses **CSB Recommendation No. 2011-06-I-HI-R11**.

B. Response to the Recommendation

The EPA participated in the development of the first edition of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 401 Recommended Practice for the Prevention of Fires and Uncontrolled Chemical Reactions Associated with the Handling of Hazardous Waste (NFPA 401). Documentation submitted by the EPA demonstrates that one of their employees from the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR) served as a Principal Member of the Hazard Waste Committee for the NFPA beginning on November 30, 2016. This committee was

responsible for the first draft of NFPA 401. This employee is still listed and participates as a committee member.

At least one other employee of the EPA also participated in the standard development process for NFPA 401 in their official capacity in the Spring of 2022 according to NFPA documentation. This employee worked with a task group to draft language responding to a comment from the CSB regarding proper disposal of fireworks.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based upon the information above, the EPA met the requirements of the recommendation, and as a result the Board voted to change the status of **CSB Recommendation No. 2011-06-I-HI-R11** to: **“Closed – Acceptable Action.”**