



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

Report:	Evergreen Packaging Mill – Fire During Hot Work
Recommendation Number:	2020-07-I-NC-R3
Date Issued:	September 24, 2021
Recipient:	Evergreen Packaging
New Status:	Open - Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	

Recommendation Text:

Update all documentation, training, and orientation materials provided to contractors pertaining to hot work to reflect Evergreen Packaging’s internal definition of hot work. The materials should make clear that hot work encompasses any method of work that can serve as a source of ignition.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On September 21, 2020, a paper mill operated by Evergreen Packaging (Evergreen) in Canton, North Carolina, was undergoing a planned shutdown, and associated maintenance and capital project work was ongoing throughout the facility. In one of Evergreen’s pulp bleaching units, two contract companies were performing simultaneous maintenance work inside two connected process vessels, called an “upflow tower” and a “downflow tower,” when a fire started inside the upflow tower after an electric heat gun, which was being used to warm resin, fell into a five-gallon bucket containing the flammable resin. The fire fatally injured two contractors.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found that the workers did not recognize or control the ignition hazard presented by the electric heat gun. The CSB also concluded that Evergreen’s contractor safety handbook and site orientation program’s definition of hot work did not align with Evergreen’s internal hot work policy.

As a result of the investigation, the CSB issued three new recommendations to Evergreen Packaging. This status change summary pertains to **CSB Recommendation No. 2020-07-I-NC-R3**.