



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

<b>Report:</b>	Evergreen Packaging Mill – Fire During Hot Work
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2020-07-I-NC-R1
<b>Date Issued:</b>	September 24, 2021
<b>Recipient:</b>	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
<b>New Status:</b>	Open - Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	

### **Recommendation Text:**

*Issue a safety information product (such as a letter of interpretation) addressing the analysis and control of hazards that are not pre-existing but which result from work activities inside permit-required confined spaces.*

### **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 concluded that an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) publication is needed that includes actionable guidance on addressing hazards and implementing controls when using flammables in confined spaces.

As a result of the investigation, the CSB issued two new recommendations to OSHA. This status change summary pertains to **CSB Recommendation No. 2020-07-I-NC-R1**.