



U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Memorandum

To: Board Members

From: Christopher M. Lyon *Christopher M. Lyon*
Acting General Counsel

Cc: Amanda Johnson
Adam Henson
Leadership Team

Subject: Board Action Report – Notation Item 2024-62

Date: March 14, 2024

On March 14, 2024, the Board approved Notation Item 2024-62, thereby designating Recommendation 2011-06-I-HI-R7, to the National Fire Protection Association, from the Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. Fatal Fireworks Disassembly Explosion and Fire investigation (2011-06-I-HI), with the status of Closed – Acceptable Action.

Voting Summary – Notation Item 2024-62

Disposition: APPROVED

Disposition date: March 14, 2024

	Approve	Disapprove	Calendar	Not Participating	Date
S. Johnson	X				3/12/2024
S. Owens	X				3/14/2024
C. Sandoval	X				3/12/2024



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE

SUMMARY

Report:	Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. (DEI) Fatal Fireworks Disassembly Explosion and Fire
Recommendation Number:	2011-06-I-HI-R7
Date Issued:	January 17, 2013
Recipient:	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
New Status:	Closed – Acceptable Action
Date of Status Change:	March 14, 2024

Recommendation Text:

Develop a new standard, or incorporate within an existing standard, best practices for the safe disposal of waste fireworks that are consistent with environmental requirements.

At a minimum this guidance or standard should:

- *Discourage the disassembly of waste fireworks as a step in the disposal process;*
- *Minimize the accumulation of waste explosive materials, and encourage practices that reduce, recycle, reuse, or repurpose fireworks; and*
- *Incorporate input from ATF, EPA, and other agencies, experts, and available resources on fireworks disposal methodologies.*

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On April 8, 2011, an explosion and fire that occurred at Waikele Self Storage located in Waipahu, Hawaii. At this facility, a leased magazine was being used by Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. (DEI) 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 National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) standards related to explosives and fireworks (e.g., 495, 1123 and 1124) and determined that there were no standards or guidance for the safe disposal of fireworks.

Based on the findings of the investigation, the Board voted to issue two recommendations to the NFPA related to disposal of fireworks: This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2011-06-I-HI-R7.

B. Response to the Recommendation

The NFPA notified the CSB that NFPA 401, *Recommended Practice for the Prevention of Fires and Uncontrolled Chemical Reactions Associated with the Handling of Hazardous Waste*¹, was issued December 1, 2023, with an effective date of December 21, 2023. This document provides important guidance on practices and safeguards necessary to prevent fires and explosions associated with the generation, transportation, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. Pyrotechnics and fireworks are addressed specifically in NPFA 401 at 10.3.7. As a result of the collaboration between the NFPA and CSB, this document satisfies all the recommendation requirements.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

The Board appreciates the cooperation and professionalism demonstrated by the NFPA’s leadership and staff throughout the recommendation closure process. Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change CSB Recommendation No. 2011-06-I-HI-R7 to “Closed – Acceptable Action.”

¹ Available at www.nfpa.org/401 (Accessed February 9, 2024).