



This H&S Alert details an incident involving a small fire on a TClarke Project, which was fortunately extinguished in a prompt manner.



Image 1

What Happened?

A number of metal flue sections (Image 2), that were originally stored internally, had been moved to an external storage area, to allow the construction work to progress.

The temperature on the day was relatively mild (14°C), but there was spells of intense direct sunlight (Image 3).

The investigation concluded that a photothermic reaction (*generation of heat by light*) occurred within one of the flue sections as the sunlight reflected within the internal flue walls (Image 4).

This ignited sections of cardboard and wooden pallets causing the fire to spread to an area roughly 2m². Fortunately, this was identified by two individuals who able to extinguish the fire (from a safe distance) using 'near by' extinguishers.

Upon review of the flue packaging, it was evident that this is an associated risk of leaving the metal flues outside and exposed to sunlight.



Image 2



Image 3

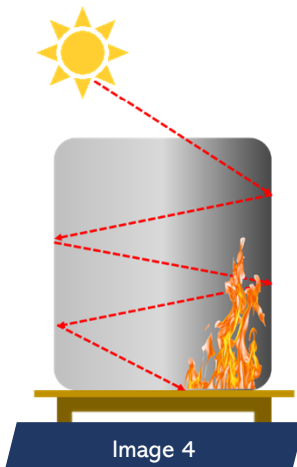


Image 4

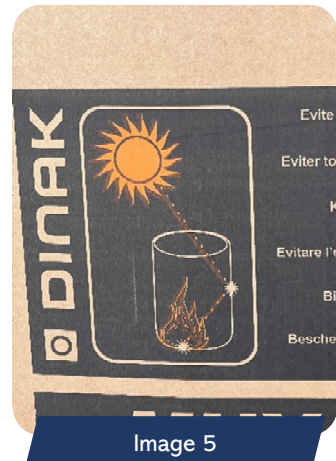


Image 5

Lessons Learned

It was apparent that this warning sign has been 'overlooked' by all individuals making their way passed this area. This incident could have been prevented had this been identified when they were moved outside. It was suggested that there has been an element of 'sign blindness' or a diminished perception of the warning sign by those who have seen it.

This acts as a stark reminder that we all need to be vigilant, specifically with warning signs and to not take things for granted. It is important that we do not 'overlook' safety notices.

This could have been also been reported on the TClarke YSYS Reporting App which would have addressed and removed the flue sections before causing an issue.

Moving forward, it is essential that all Flue Sections are stored out of sunlight, with scaffold protective covers provided if they cannot be stored internally (Image 6).

There must be a concerted effort to continuously monitor any equipment, materials or substances to ensure they are stored in a safe and correct manner at all times.

Remember:

Please be Mindful, Please be Vigilant!



Image 6