



SAFETY ALERT

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

Second Degree Thermal Burn

Event: Second Degree Thermal Burn
Date: November 2014
Category: Injury
RMS Contact: Lisa Phillips, Bognar.6@nd.edu

Contact RMS:

Tel: 631-5037

Description:

While removing a metal tray of dried sand from an oven, a researcher received a second degree burn. The thermal protective equipment (PPE) was damaged. During the PPE inspection process, the researcher failed to notice a hole in the glove thumb.



Findings:

- Researcher was using a drying oven to dry sand on a metal tray.
- The drying oven temperature was ~ 225°F .
- Researcher was using an oven in a common lab not generally used by lab personnel
- Researcher was working alone in the lab.
- Researcher used gloves that were left in the lab and inspected the top of the glove, but missed the hole in the thumb.
- The researcher removed the tray using the thermal glove.
- The University's emergency reporting process was followed by lab personnel.

Root Causes:

- The researcher had not inspected the thermal glove carefully enough to see the hole in the glove.
- Unusable gloves were left in the lab as hot pads but not taken out of service as PPE (fingers cut off).

Recommended Actions:

- Develop or modify written PPE inspection/disposal to include checking all sides of PPE and dispose or render PPE unusable (cut fingers off) if desire to use as hot pads.
- Train lab personnel on new/modified procedures.