

# ◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶



## Hot Works

### What Happened?

Recently, there were 2 instances where fires were reported following 'hot works' operations. The following alert is to highlight these incidents and outline some key considerations for sites with similar operations.

1 On 27<sup>th</sup> February, a petrol saw was being used close to a refuelling area, where another saw was being refuelled and the fuel vapours ignited. The petrol saw was damaged (see image below) in the fire and was subsequently extinguished.



2 On 6<sup>th</sup> March a small fire occurred when a piece of material ignited after being showered in sparks from a stihl saw which was being used to cut steel. The fire was extinguished immediately.

### Considerations

- ✓ Consider alternative methods to hot works such as cold cutting
- ✓ Keep clear of accesses and emergency routes when carrying out hot works
- ✓ Ensure that refuelling points are planned with no ignition sources present and that the area is well ventilated
- ✓ Allow for sufficient time for the engine to cool down before refuelling
- ✓ Use a funnel / funnel extension to ensure that the risk of spillage is kept to a minimum
- ✓ Keep an appropriate extinguisher close to hand for any hot works operation
- ✓ If there are combustible materials, these need to be removed / protected as appropriate
- ✓ Where required, use appropriate fire screens / coverings to prevent sparks from spreading
- ✓ Ensuring that when using petrol saws and grinders you are aware of what is behind you
- ✓ Ensure that operations are covered by a hot works permit system.