



FIRE RISK DURING WOOD CHIP DELIVERY

Background

During a recent wood chip delivery to a biomass facility, it was noticed that a tail light of the delivery truck was smouldering. There was a concern that smouldering debris could have fallen into the chip storage and caused a fire in the facility

What Happened

1. The daily walk round inspection of the truck showed no indication of a problem at the start of the day
2. Wood chip / wood dust entered the tail light assembly through an unnoticed crack (unknown if the crack happened during the working day or was missed during daily inspection)
3. The tail light short circuited causing the wood chip in it to start smouldering
4. An engineer on the customer site observed the smouldering tail light during the delivery

Findings

1. Cracked tail light was unobserved
2. Ingress of wood chip into the tail light was unnoticed prior to delivery
3. Smouldering light was not noticed until during delivery
4. Potential to cause fire in wood chip stockpile was significant

Corrective Action

- Drivers must conduct a further walk around inspection of delivery trucks on arrival at customer sites prior to offloading wood chip into storage
 - Check lights and other potential heat sources to ensure there are no hot spots

Learning Points

- Start of day walk around vehicle inspections might not identify small issues
- Wood chip penetrating potential hot spots could start smouldering
- Pre delivery checks are essential at all customer sites to ensure no smouldering wood debris is present

Please Don't Walk By



Ensure this Safety Alert is brought to the attention of all employees and sub-contractors.