

Rapid Lesson Sharing



Event Type: Working Around Engine Supporting Lighters on Prescribed Burn

Date: March 2, 2014

Location: Georgia

Narrative

During holding operations on Division B of an RX Burn, Engine 641 is assigned to:
1) Follow lighters; 2) Carry torch mix to fill-up lighters when needed; 3) Patrol for spots; and 4) Look for snags that have caught fire and extinguish.



Top Photo –The pre-connect filled with water and ruptured Bin #4.

Bottom Photo—Bin #4 after the hose had been punctured and removed.
Note the bin has been rendered useless.



While using Engine 641 for supporting lighters, an individual climbs onto back of engine to get torch fuel mix—crossing over the engine’s plumbing and accidentally opening the number 3 pre-connect valve. This unintentional action charges 100 feet of 1 1/2” hose in Bin #4 on this 643P Type 6 Engine.

At the time, the engine pump was set at Approximately 60 PSI.

The Engine Operator hears a loud bang noise and sees that engine compartment #4 is busted at the welds of the compartment. The front driver-side panel is blown out—wedging the side panel to the cab of the engine and the charged hose exposed outside of the bin. The damage to this Bin #4 compartment panel almost impacted the engine’s diesel fuel pump. Had that happened, the engine’s computer system would not have let the engine start without manually overriding it.

To relieve the pressure, the crew punctures the hose to safely remove the busted compartment panel and hose.

Lessons

- ❖ Avoid climbing over plumbing—to keep from accidentally opening valves.
- ❖ Properly climb on correct side of the engine to access compartments etc.
- ❖ Leave pre-connect hose nozzle open to reduce pressure in bin if valve is accidentally opened.
- ❖ Zip-tie pre-connect valves to keep from accidentally charging.
- ❖ Have Engine Boss or Engine Operators check valves every time when starting pump.
- ❖ Conduct routine training on engine to keep accidents from happening.



Photo Above – Top view looking down at busted Bin #4.

Submitted By
Module/Crew Overhead

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