

HAZARD ALERT

LASER CUTTING MACHINES

21 May 2021

REFERENCES:

WHS Act 2012 (SA) Sections 19, 20, 21 & 27
 WHS Regulations 2012 (SA) – Regulations 31-38, 39, 203-213, 223
 CSH&W SA Document No. (15) V3 – Plant Management

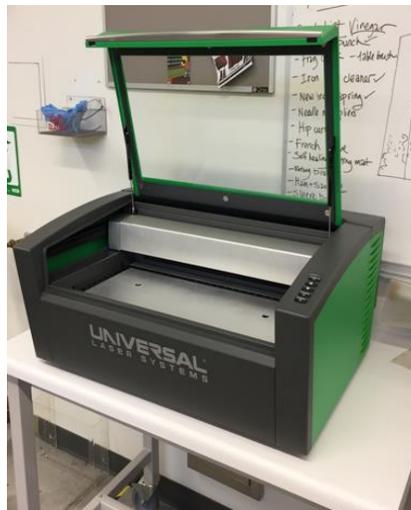
OBJECTIVE:

To communicate a safety issue recently identified regarding Laser Cutting Machines and provide sites with recommendations to ensure hazards are identified, risks assessed, and effective control measures are developed and implemented.

BACKGROUND:

Over the past two years there have been four (4) fires that have started while using Laser Cutting Machines. Two (2) of these have occurred in the past two months. In all cases it has been identified that either use by untrained persons, lack of training or lack of supervision were the significant contributing factors.

Examples of Laser Cutting Machines



PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

- Thoroughly review the operations manual provided with your Laser Cutting Machine.
- Review your site's risk assessment and SOP for the Laser Cutting Machine and update where applicable.
- Review training provided to relevant staff and where applicable arrange for training or a refresher.
- Review the site's ability to lockout and tag out equipment if necessary and source the appropriate equipment e.g. 'locks', 'do not operate tags' and 'lockout plugs' for electrical cords (if equipment is plugged in). If equipment is hard wired, this should be connected through an isolating switch with the ability to be locked.

NOTE: These machines when in operation are not to be left unattended. A suitably trained staff member must be present at all times while these machines are in operation. Use of these machines is only permitted under the direct supervision of trained staff, who are authorised to use the machine.

For enquiries or further information please contact your WHS Consultant at CSHWSA