

◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶

Fire Incident Involving Acetylene



What happened:

On the 2nd July 2015 at Barhale's Sussex Gardens site, an acetylene cylinder caught fire resulting in a 16 hour exclusion zone being set-up by the London Fire Brigade. To support the investigation, an independent gas safety expert was commissioned to inspect the equipment and determine the causes which led to the incident. This alert confirms lessons to be learned followed the detailed investigation.

Future Considerations:

- Hoses should be kept to the minimum length required, coiled hoses provide extra fuel for a fire should it occur.
- Operators must follow the correct lighting-up procedure which includes purging of hoses.
- The correct hose clips should be used, as per the manufacturers' specifications.
- After connecting the equipment the operator should complete a leak test.
- Burning equipment should be:
 - Inspected every 7 days in line with PUWER 98
 - Visually inspected before use
 - Receive a functional inspection every twelve months by a competent person
 - Items such as the flashback arrestors and regulators should be replaced every 5 years.



Top of a badly burned acetylene cylinder



FIRE/HOT WORK

Date: 27th July 2015



MOVING LONDON FORWARD