

# SAFETY ALERT



**Safety Alert No. 350**  
**3 May 2019**

**Contact: Jason Mathews**  
**Phone: (504) 731-1496**

## **Fires on Facilities Caused by Use of Outdoor Grills**



*Outdoor grill from 12 January 2019 incident (left). Cellar Deck (circled) from 12 January 2019 incident.*

During the first few months of 2019, two fires have occurred related to facility barbecue grills being operated outside of living quarters. Causal factors include inadequate containment and improper disposal of hot grill debris. These factors could have resulted in fires of greater magnitude and severity if swift emergency response measures were not initiated at the time of the incidents.

During one incident, on 12 January 2019, personnel witnessed a waste bag on fire on a facility's cellar deck. The crew responded with the use of dry chemical extinguishers and a water hose, which extinguished the fire. There were no personnel injuries and no damage to equipment. The scene of the fire occurred directly below the south side of the main deck, where the designated smoking area is located. This section of the main deck also has an outdoor grill available for use. Investigators concluded that hot charcoal or grease exiting the grill's drain line was carried by high winds through the open grating to the deck below. The charcoal or grease landed on the waste bag, resulting in the fire.

During the second incident, on 2 February 2019, a small fire was observed in a different facility's trash compactor. The Offshore Installation Manager activated the facility Emergency Shutdown, and all personnel were instructed to muster. The fire team immediately extinguished the flame. There were no personnel injuries and no damage to equipment. The investigation team concluded that the disposal of used grilling charcoal into the trash compactor was the catalyst for the subsequent fire.

**Therefore, BSEE recommends that operators consider the following:**

- Verify that all appropriate personnel are aware of established policies for the proper disposal of used barbecue charcoal.
- In areas where grills are used, install barriers (e.g., a section of solid decking, catch trays, buckets) over open grating in order to prevent hot grill debris from reaching the production deck or cellar deck, where potential ignition sources are prevalent.
- Verify all safety precautions and hazard mitigations are in place prior to beginning to cook on an outdoor grill.
- Prior to disposal of spent charcoal, measures should be taken to ensure the heat energy has been extinguished.
- Consider installing solid decking as an additional preventative measure within your designated smoking area to avoid ash from falling to an undesirable location and periodically review designated smoking area requirements with facility personnel.

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A Safety Alert is a tool used by BSEE to inform the offshore oil and gas industry of the circumstances surrounding a potential safety issue. It also contains recommendations that could assist avoiding potential incidents on the Outer Continental Shelf.