

Dean Meyer, H-1 Group Leader

10/29/58

John Enders, H-1

FIRE AT PIT #6, AREA "C" (CONTAMINATED DUMP)

H-1

On 10/28/58, about 9:00 A.M., a fire was discovered at the West end of the Pit. Two boxes of exposed trash were on fire. The Zia Roads Section personnel were just starting to cover the exposed trash. Prompt action by Nelson Anglin, Zia Roads Section, who pushed dirt over the burning boxes prevented a major fire.

A breakdown of events is as follows:

1. 8:30 A.M.: Zia and H-1 personnel arrived at the pit.
2. 8:45 A.M.: The dozer pushed a few boxes at the West end of the Pit in a northerly direction to permit more room for the dirt hauling equipment to pass by.
3. 9:00 A.M.: (A) The Pan operator noticed the fire on the boxes first and called my attention to it.  
(B) I put on a respirator and ran to the two boxes and pulled them away from the other boxes.  
(C) I then returned to the truck to get a CO<sub>2</sub> fire extinguisher.  
(D) I then returned to the fire and upon depressing the fire extinguisher handle, found the extinguisher was empty.  
(E) Anglin was directed to cover the burning boxes with dirt while I drove to 10 Site to call the Fire Department and pick up another fire extinguisher.  
(F) When I returned to the Pit, the burning boxes had been covered with dirt.
4. 9:10 A.M.: The Fire Dept. arrived and after I had reported to them what had happened they left.
5. 9:15 A.M. Upon looking around near the site of the fire I found two flasks which could have held some sort of liquid. The liquid could have started the fire from a spark from the dozer blade. This is only a guess, however, and it would be hard to prove that this was the cause of the fire.
6. 9:15 A.M. Joe Romero and Charles Blackwell, Gen. Monitoring Section H-1, arrived at the Pit. Romero had been directed to report via radio message from Carl Buckland and Blackwell had heard of the fire from a Security Guard at TA-43.

Conclusion:

1. The cause of the fire can not be determined.
2. The exposed trash will have to be covered more frequently.
3. The fire extinguisher carried in the pick-up truck will have to be checked more often.
4. It would be helpful to have a better means of calling the Fire Dept. in event of a fire.

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File

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