

Basic Guidelines for Transferring Thermoplastic Material

On July 11, 2020 fire destroyed three pieces of equipment while material was being transferred from the 6 pot to the thermo striper. The three units destroyed in the fire were: 205 Thermo Striper, 602 Tractor, 611ST Troy 6 Pot Trailer. The good news is that no one was injured, fluids and materials leaking from the fire were contained and the fire did not spread to other parts of the fuel station. Equipment can be replaced while lives cannot.



Finding a place to load with enough room to safely transfer material between a thermo striper and melter requires planning. To improve safety we are establishing basic written guidelines for the safe operation of thermo equipment and material transfer. The guidelines are as follows:

1. Burners are to be shut off when a thermo melter or striper is being fueled up or is within 50 feet of any flammable or combustible material
2. Burners may be on during material transfer
3. Loading at public fuel stations where fuel pumps and/or underground storage tanks are present is prohibited
4. Transferring material between a thermo striper and melter at any PK yard or satellite facility is to be completed in designated thermo material transfer areas
5. Thermoplastic loading/transfer areas are to be reviewed and include the following measures to prevent fires and to prevent and contain spills.
 - Position the trucks a safe distance from pedestrians, objects or property that, in the event of a fire, will not catch fire
 - Locate catch basins that will require protection from a spill or runoff
 - Identify rivers, streams or other water sources that may need to be protected
 - Locate any spill containment kits on site that could be used to contain a spill
 - Be sure that shovels and brooms are available to use for cleanup or to contain a material spill
 - There should be enough room for emergency vehicles to access the site in case of fire
 - Inspect fire extinguishers daily

Questions about Tool Talk Topics or other safety items? Contact Kurt Shea at 269-207-2055 or by email at kurt@pkcontracting.com

