

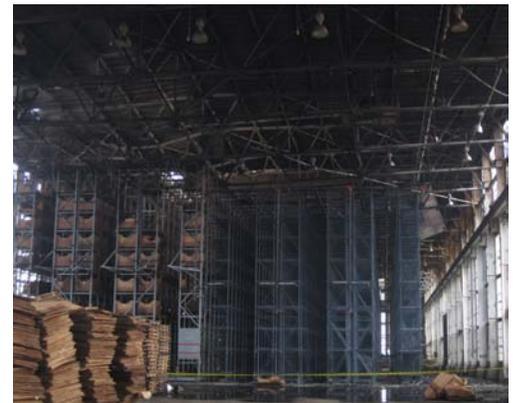
Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Mid-Atlantic **Safety Lessons Learned Accident Abstract**

Accident Type: Property Damage (FIRE)
Injury: None
Damage: Fire damage to roof and other building systems
Type of Work: Demolition
Equipment: Cutting torch



DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

- ◆ Subcontractor employee was using a cutting torch to dismantle and remove existing rack system in a vacant warehouse. In violation of the hot work permit, employee operated the torch within 35 feet of combustible materials remaining on the racks. Upon noticing a smoldering box in the rack system, employee and fire watch attempted to extinguish the box with a fire extinguisher. The fire spread rapidly through the remaining boxes in the rack system and all personnel evacuated the building.



DIRECT CAUSE:

- ◆ Improper hot work procedures

INDIRECT CAUSE:

- ◆ No preparatory meeting for this activity
- ◆ No site-specific AHA for new phase of demolition work in this building
- ◆ Failure of SSHO to ensure EM-385 safety requirements were met
- ◆ Failure of superintendent to ensure situational awareness of hazards in the immediate work area

ROOT CAUSE:

- ◆ Ineffective control of subcontractor site safety and implementation of EM-385-1-1 safety procedures on site

LESSONS LEARNED:

- ◆ Ensure site-specific AHAs for each construction activity
- ◆ Coordinate issuance and renewal of hot work permits with the cognizant construction office