

# MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself  
“Could it happen here?”

## DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

### 50% Caustic Spray

A worker was doing chemical prep and was about to transfer over 50% caustic from a railcar into the 50% storage tank.

The worker did not hook up the caustic car, this was done on the previous shift and steam was turned on to allow the caustic rail car to thaw out. The worker proceeded to open the discharge valve and the start pump via start/stop button directly behind the motor.

Immediately after turning on pump, the worker approached the piping to feel the line. The line initially is hot from the steam, and once the line goes cold, it is an indication of a good caustic flow.

Shortly after starting the pump, Worker #1 heard a pop and a spray of 50% caustic hit the worker's face. The gasket on discharge valve of pump failed and was producing a spray of caustic that resembled a fire protection sprinkler head.

Due to the location of the start/stop, Worker #1 had to walk through the spray to get to the eye wash station. The worker called for help immediately when arriving at eye wash station. The worker was treated by the First aider and transferred to medical aid for further assessment.

Further investigation occurred post incident.

## SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Lockout out pump and replace the failed gasket.
- Install chemical resistant socks on discharge flanges.



## IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Install chemical resistant socks on discharge flanges.

