

WF&HC Provides Insight on Delayed Coker Fires

Delayed Cokers present a unique fire problem in Refineries. Unlike other refinery processes; Delayed Coking is a batch process on an elevated structure, at high temperatures and pressure which requires a higher degree of human intervention. As a result fires on a Delayed Coker Unit present higher risk of injury loss of life and serious damage to the structure.

At the recent 10th Annual Universal Coking Coker Delayed Coking Seminar (www.cokingcokers.com), held in Long Beach, California August 1st-3rd, Jerry Craft, Senior Lead Firefighter and Manager of Training & Consulting for Williams Fire & Hazard Control delivered a presentation on fire hazards and solutions for Delayed Cokers. Jerry stressed the need not only for an adequate water supply, but also the utilization of high volume monitors to assure adequate reach and water spray coverage to both the deheading and drill decks. Without these high volume flows personnel are not afforded a protected means of egress from the structure, nor will there be adequate fire water density to combat the vertical fire effect presented by these fires.

Stressing the need for high volume streams either through fixed remote control monitors, oscillation monitors, water spray systems, or portable equipment, Craft told the audience that; "Coker Structures can not take the vertical heat loading caused by the high BTU fuels found in these processes. If left unchecked, the heat loading will compromise the structure in a matter of minutes —



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rather than hours — making the fire threat quite serious. Also, when high volume fire flows can be applied in a short period of time the fire is less likely to damage other lines and equipment on the structure, holding the fire to its point of origin.

The Seminar was attended by approximately 112 petroleum professionals from the Americas, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The conference lasted 3 days and provided participants the opportunity to share their experiences and projects in the areas of Fire Protection, Safety, Operations, Process Control, Maintenance and Reliability for Coker Units.

For more information on fire protection solutions on delayed cokers and other process units contact your local Williams Fire & Hazard Control Representative.