**Hazard Notification Letter & Escalations**

**The following represents field notes that were prepared by a union health & safety representative as a response to a workers complaint about safety conditions at a paper machine.**

**Field Notes**
**Date:** November 25, 2024
**Time:** 10:15 AM
**Location:** Bay 3, Paper Machine #2 Area, Great Plains Paper Mill
**Reported by:** Mike Johnson (Machine Operator, Shift A)
**Reported to:** John Puskar (Safety Specialist)

**Worker Statement:**
Mike Johnson approached me during routine rounds to report several hazardous conditions in the Paper Machine #2 area. He expressed concern over the safety of workers in the vicinity of the machine due to ongoing issues. The specific hazards reported were:

1. **Steam Leaks:**
	* Steam visibly escaping from multiple joints, particularly near the flange connections on the main steam supply line to the machine.
	* The leaks create a hot and humid environment around the operator's workstation.
2. **Exposed Steam Piping:**
	* Uninsulated steam pipes in close proximity to the walkway and machine operator panel.
	* Mike reported that a coworker, Sarah Daniels, suffered a minor burn last week while performing a routine check on the control panel.
3. **Water Leakage on the Floor:**
	* Chronic water leaks from an overhead supply line and the machine’s drainage system, forming puddles around the operator’s station and adjacent walkway.
	* The floor in the area is consistently slippery, with no visible signs or drainage measures in place.
	* Mike noted a near-miss incident earlier this shift when another operator, Tony Ramirez, slipped while carrying tools.

**Field Observations:**

Upon immediate inspection of the area, the following conditions were noted:

1. **Steam Leaks:**
	* Active leaks observed at the flange connection near Valve V-23 and at the bypass piping joint.
	* Steam visibly escaping, creating low visibility and an ambient heat level that made the area uncomfortable.
2. **Exposed Steam Piping:**
	* Several sections of uninsulated steam piping measured along the operator access route, including a pipe directly above the control panel.
	* Surface temperature readings taken with an IR thermometer showed pipe temperatures averaging 240°F.
3. **Water Leaks:**
	* Multiple water leaks originating from an overhead joint near the east side of the machine and from a fitting on the machine's return line.
	* Standing water approximately 1/8-inch deep was noted in several spots, with visible algae growth along the edges of the puddles.

**Additional Notes:**

* The area had high foot traffic during the observation period.
* Operators were observed using standard-issue boots, but no anti-slip flooring or warning signage was present.
* A lack of immediate corrective action, such as temporary insulation or barriers, was noted for the exposed steam piping.