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## Two Workers Treated For Burns After Fire At Shively Ethanol Plant

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By *Caton Bredar*

**(LOUISVILLE)** -- A flash fire at an ethanol plant in Shively sent two men to the hospital Thursday with severe burns. WAVE 3's [Caton Bredar](#) has more on the fire that was out almost as quickly as it started.

The 'flash fire' happened about 7:30 a.m. Thursday at Parallel Products on Bernheim Lane just off Seventh Street during some routine maintenance work. The blaze itself only lasted a minute or two, but for the workers, the scars may last a lot longer.

Company spokesman Hal Parks says the fire started as two contract maintenance workers were replacing a section of old pipe in the filling station area of the facility.

"There was a small amount of fuel came out of the pipe," Parks said. "This was a pipe that really had not been used for several months."

As workers moved the lift they were working on, firefighters believe some sparks from a motor may have ignited the fuel and caused a flash fire.

Parks says the fire "was short lived, less than a minute or two at the most."

Chief Wendall Vincent with Shively Fire & Rescue told us "there doesn't appear to be any liquid or residuals on the ground or anything. It probably was consumed in the flash fire. It appears to be just a small amount, just enough to cause the flash."

Parks added: "There was no release of fumes or dangerous chemicals at this time; whatever was released was completely contained."

The workers were burned on their hands and face, but their injuries are not considered life-threatening.

Parallel Products refines outdated sugar-based and alcohol-based products like perfume and soap and distills them into ethanol. The company says the accident was caused by a denaturant.

Fire officials were still trying to pinpoint the exact cause of the blaze.

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