

Lessons Learned Presentation – Dave Mertz
Hanford Mobile Office Fire
February 15, 2008

On February 15, 2008 the Hanford Site incurred a fire in a vacated mobile office (MO). The direct cause of the event was radiant ignition of the building's wood framing that supported the HVAC supply ducting, due to the continued operation of the HVAC heating coils without airflow. Electrical component failures created this condition, but a major factor in the ignition of the wood framing was an improper clearance between the HVAC supply ducting and the wood structural framing members.

This presentation will focus on the cause of the event and the results of the follow-up inspections of mobile offices for proper clearance to HVAC supply ducts. The inspections revealed that HVAC clearance problems may exist in many of the older MO units at DOE sites even though State inspections were performed.