



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

July 2010

DIARY DATES FOR 2010

**Annual General
Meeting
Sydney
August 13
2.30 for 3.00PM
Ryde Eastwood
Leagues Club**

**Please send your
RSVP!**

**AIDGC Annual
Conference
Crowne Plaza
Sydney
September 17**

2009 Explosion at Veolia Hazardous Waste Facility

A U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) case study released today on the 2009 explosion and fire at the Veolia ES Technical Solutions L.L.C. facility in West Carrollton, Ohio, calls on the industry to improve safety standards covering hazardous waste processing, handling, and storage facilities. The Board also recommended that fire protection codes be revised to require companies to determine safe distances between occupied buildings and potentially hazardous operating areas.

The accident occurred on May 4, 2009, when flammable vapor was released from a waste recycling process, ignited, and violently exploded. The blast seriously injured two workers and damaged 20 nearby residences and five businesses. CSB investigators found that the north wall of the lab and operations building – where the victims were injured – was less than 30 feet from the waste recycling processing area where the flammable vapor was released. CSB Chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso said, “This accident should not have happened. Our report notes that OSHA cited the company for inadequate attention to process safety management practices in the handling of flammable liquids. But in case of an accident, I believe it is absolutely critical that buildings at chemical facilities be sited safe distances from process equipment to maximize the safety of workers. We are making recommendations that would help ensure that operating areas with occupied buildings such as control rooms be sufficiently separated from process areas containing flammable liquids and gases that have the potential to explode.”

The Board issued a recommendation to the National Fire



Protection Association (NFPA), which develops codes and standards for industry, urging NFPA to require companies to perform engineering analyses to determine safe separation distances between buildings occupied by administrative and other personnel not essential to process operations, and buildings housing the potentially hazardous process equipment.

The Board also revised a previous recommendation to the Environmental Technology Council, a hazardous waste industry trade group, to petition the NFPA to develop a standard specific to hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities. This would include guidance on reducing the likelihood of fires, explosions, and releases of hazardous waste.

<http://www.csb.gov/newsroom/detail.aspx?nid=332>

Commercialization of Bioethanol

A CAS Chemistry Research Report:

China Takes Lead in the Commercialization of Bioethanol.

Also on that resource:

Podcast: Exploring New Methods of Fuel Production from Biomass

Podcast: Exploring Ethanol - The Fuel of the Future

<http://www.cas.org/newsevents/pressroom/report.html>



Buncefield: Almost \$10million

Five firms have been ordered to pay almost £10m between them in combined fines and costs for their parts in the Buncefield oil depot explosion. French energy giant Total must pay £6.2m for failing to protect workers and the public over the 2005 explosion. Hertfordshire Oil Storage Limited (HOSL) must pay £2.4m and British Pipeline Agency Ltd must pay £780,000. TAV Engineering Ltd and Motherwell Control Systems were told at St Albans Crown Court they must pay £1,500 each. Total were fined £3.6m with £2.6m costs, Hertfordshire Oil Storage Limited received a £1.45m fine with £1m costs and British Pipeline Agency Ltd must pay a £300,000 fine plus £480,000 costs. Motherwell Control Systems 2003 Ltd and TAV Engineering Ltd were both fined £1,000 with £500 costs.

Source: guardian.co.UK

AIDGC Queensland Chapter – Frank Mendham

Three AIDGC presentations are planned for Queensland in 2010:

Site visit to SIMTARS

‘Hands On’ Workshop using
Hazardous Area Classification
Calculations to AS/NZS
60079.10.1

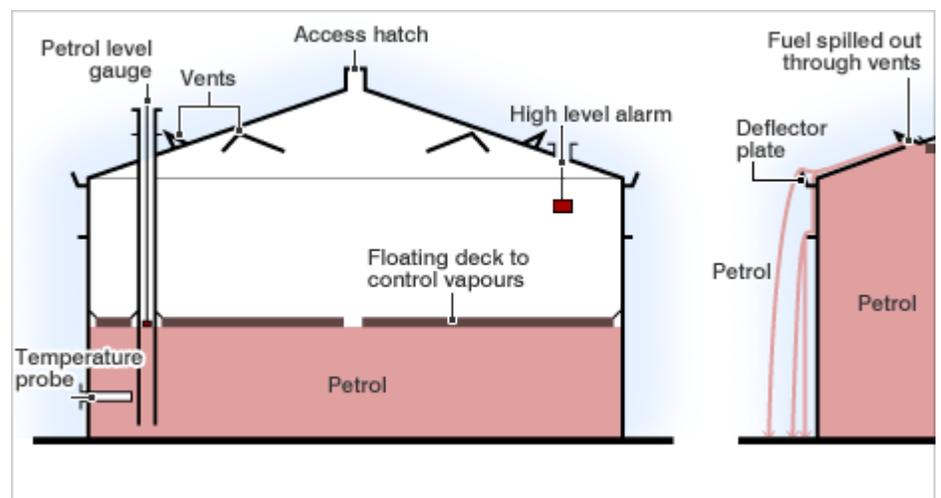
Queensland Legislation Changes

Frank asks any AIDGC Members
or Associates who would be
interested in participating in the
new Queensland AIDGC Chapter
to please contact him on either
07 3553 3537 or
frank.mendham@aecom.com

How it Happened

The Hertfordshire Oil Storage Terminal, or HOSL as it is also known, handled around 2.37 million metric tonnes of oil products a year - mainly petrol, diesel and aviation fuel - delivered by tankers and pipeline. Disaster struck early in the morning of Sunday 11 December as unleaded motor fuel was being pumped into storage tank 912, in the north west corner of the site. Safeguards on the tank failed and none of the staff on duty realised its capacity had been reached. By 0520 GMT, investigators believe, the tank was overflowing.

How Tank 912 Overflowed



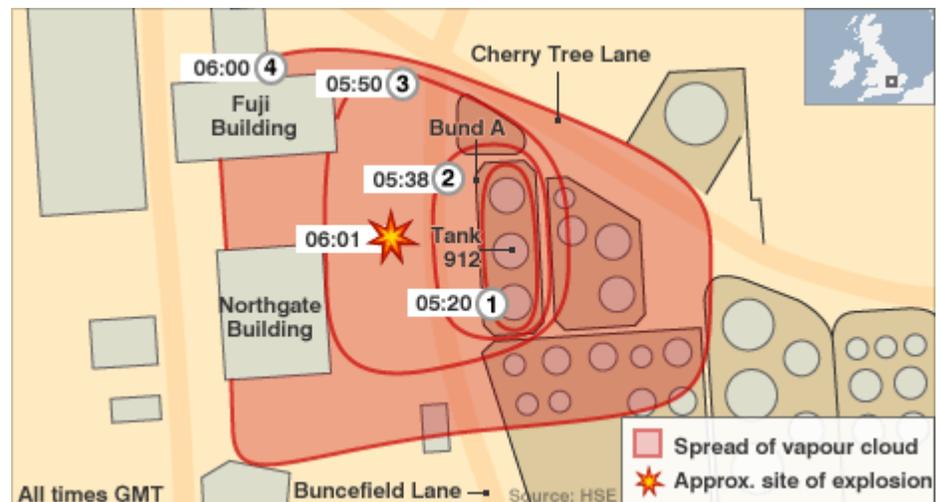
Under normal circumstances, gauges monitor the level of the fuel in the tank as it fills from a pipeline.

An automatic high level safety switch should trigger an alarm if the tank reaches its maximum capacity. This should result in shutdown.

On this occasion, automatic shutdown did not happen and when fuel continued to be pumped in, it overflowed through roof vents.

The overflow from the tank led to the rapid formation of a rich fuel and air vapour. It thickened to about 2m (6.6ft) and started spreading in all directions.

How the Vapour Spread



- 1) Fuel cascaded down the tank and collected in bund A (the area around the tank bounded by a low wall, which stops leaked liquid spreading).**
- 2) Vapour flowed out of bund A from 0538. The cloud was initially about 1m deep, thickening to 2m.**
- 3) By 0550 vapour started flowing off the site, near the junction of Cherry Tree Lane and Buncefield Lane.**
- 4) By 0600 the rate at which fuel was being pumped into tank 912 had increased from 550 cubic metres (1,805 cubic feet) an hour to around 890 cubic metres (2,920 cubic feet) an hour.**
- 5) At 0601, with the vapour cloud cloaked over a large area and reaching buildings next to the site, the first explosion occurred.**

Further explosions followed and a large fire took hold, eventually engulfing 20 large storage tanks.

Source: BBC News

AIDGC Study Grant

**Applications are open for the 2010 AIDGC Study Grant Scheme, providing cash payments of \$ 1 000 for each successful applicant. For details go to the AIDGC Website:
<http://www.aidgc.com>**

Burns Incident Highlights the Dangers of Flammable Liquids

WORKCOVER NSW says an incident at South Windsor on 15 July serves as an unfortunate reminder of the dangers of working with flammable liquids.

A worker at the manufacturing plant had 40% of his body burned while working with flammable thinners.

Initial investigation from WorkCover indicated the 25-year-old was decanting the flammable liquid when a spill ignited, severely burning him. Police and WorkCover are investigating the incident.

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/newsroom/Pages/Manufacturingworkerburntbyflammableliquid.aspx>

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/man-on-fire-at-workplace/story-e6frf7jx-1225892479899>

If you would like to make a contribution, have an interesting story, case study or report, please send to:

robhogan@tpg.com.au

This month my thanks go to Don Johnston, Rick Hall and Peter Hunt for their contributions.

DGAG Next Evening Meeting – Melbourne – August 5

Most Victorian AIDGC members attend these meetings, and AIDGC members from interstate are welcome to attend. Please e-mail Jeff Simpson jeff.simpson@haztech.com.au or phone 03-9885-1269, mobile 0403-072-092, preferably by 3 Aug (but feel free to go if you suddenly find yourself in Melbourne on that evening).

The DGAG bimonthly meeting is a general networking / update meeting, open to all, to discuss issues that are going on for dangerous goods and chemical regulation at the moment.

Location: Richmond at the MFB Burnley Complex, 450 Burnley St, Richmond 3121. Visitors' car parking is available at the front of the building. All visitors are to report to Security at the Reception, and will be directed to Class Room CG 3. Tea / coffee and biscuits will be available from 5:30 pm with the meeting starting at 6:00 and finishing at 8:00.

Persons attending are invited to go to a local Restaurant at 8.15-8.30pm until about 9.45-10.00pm (probably the inexpensive Asian restaurant in Bridge St close to the corner of Bridge St and Church St Richmond).

Solvent Issues

Safe Handling and Static

The European Solvents Industry Group, ESIG, and the Solvents Industry Association, SIA, have joined forces to produce a DVD that provides a simple guide on how to cope with the hazards of static electricity in the workplace to ensure the safe handling of solvents.

This DVD is aimed at all persons working in the organisation, from the shop floor to those with responsibility for safety equipment and safe systems of work, and is particularly aimed at end-users operating in small and medium sized enterprises.

It deals with the sources and potential consequences of static electricity; good operating practice to minimise static electricity charge build-up; effective earthing and bonding – its installation, use and testing and the technical support, codes of practice and legislation available. ESIG and SIA are providing this overview of static electricity and the prevention and mitigation measures available to increase awareness among solvent users.

These important safety messages are repeated throughout the DVD for various levels of use of solvents from ships, railcars and bulk tankers to bottles and cans via drums and IBCs. At all times the DVD directs operators in the workplace to information available in a well regulated solvents industry to help them control and manage static electricity build-up and to minimise risk.

The film is 14 minutes long and the DVD includes English, German, French, Spanish, and Italian versions. It is free of charge and can be obtained from ESIG, www.esig.org or the SIA, www.sia-uk.org.uk or be downloaded shortly from either of the above websites as a whole or in separate clips.

The DVD is part of ESIG's and the SIA's continuing work programme to promote best practice in the solvents industry, to improve health and safety performance and to minimise any potential environmental impact.

Against this background it is a valuable addition to the ESIG/SIA 'Safe Handling of Solvents' DVD, ESIG's solvents@work poster and leaflet and the SIA Safe Handling of Solvents presentation.

www.esig.org/uploads/ES_DVD_PR_20100629.pdf



Corporate Members

Our Corporate Members provide a range of products and services to the Dangerous Goods Industry. Their contact details are:

AECOM
Tim Dean
(07) 3553 2000
M 0439 371 063

Eimco Water Technologies
Adrian Minshull
02) 9542 2366

Store-Safe Pty Ltd Grant Breeze
02) 9569 2122

Vanguard Solutions
Tony Davies
08) 9420 5322

“Safe handling of Solvents” video download/DVD order from:

<http://www.esig.org/en/library/multimedia/dvd/safe-handling-of-solvents-dvd/>

Guidance note “Flammable Solvents and the Hazard of Static Electricity” (and others) download from:

<http://www.sia-uk.org.uk/guidance-notes.htm>

“Solvents and Static Electricity” video download from:

<http://www.esig.org/en/library/multimedia/static-electricity/english/>

Fire Destroys Graph-Pak Packaging Supplies Warehouse

A fire ripped through the Sydney warehouse of Graph-Pak Packaging Supplies, burning the site to the ground and destroying hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of stock. Drums of chemicals were exploding and flying into the air.

More than 70 firefighters were called to the blaze at the Smithfield laminating films supplier, which is a joint venture of machinery dealer Graph-Pak and cartonboard converter Dimension 1. No one was injured in the blaze. Dimension 1 director Ashley Goldsbrough said they had no idea what had started the blaze, which broke out at 35 Britton St after 6pm on 3 July.

“The fire investigation team was there yesterday trying to work out the cause of the fire. No idea what started it,” he said.

The company had only finished moving into the facility a few hours earlier. Goldsbrough explained: “We used to have two outside warehouses and we amalgamated them into this one warehouse, which we only go the keys for on the first of this month.”

The owners are now in the process of getting the word out to more than 250 customers across Australia, New Zealand and surrounding islands. They estimated that \$800,000 of stock had been destroyed.

Graph-Pak Packaging Supplies sells laminating film to commercial offset and digital printers and packaging printers.

Sources: YAH007 and PROPRINT

Xylene Fumes at Brisbane Grammar

Five students are in hospital and almost 200 people have been assessed by ambulance officers after being exposed to chemical fumes at a Brisbane private school. Seven ambulance crews were dispatched to assess 181 people exposed to fumes at Brisbane Grammar School in Spring Hill about 9am. Five students were transferred to Royal Brisbane and Womens' Hospital in a stable condition for observation, after students and staff complained of headaches, nausea, itchy eyes and breathing difficulties. Acting operational supervisor Jamie Smith said students presented symptoms about 8.30am. "QFRS had been out to investigate the strong smell of solvent that had been used," he said. "We dispatched some specialist response vehicles and paramedics. "I think it might have had something to do with some maintenance work. A Brisbane Grammar School spokeswoman said the students were affected by a sealant used on a surface in construction work at the school. The construction work was outside the room where the students were affected but air conditioning sucked the fumes inside. She said the students affected were from Years 9 to 12 and they had all been assessed and returned to classes except for those who were taken to hospital. The school principal was unavailable to comment.

Source: Courier Mail



Call to Ban Fumigation Chemical

The Federal Government is being urged not to let foreign companies dictate the use of toxic chemicals to fumigate Australian export timber. Last week, public outrage in Burnie, Tasmania, forced the planned fumigation of logs bound for China with 1.5 tonnes of methyl bromide to be moved offshore.

A motion will be tabled in Burnie City Council this week calling for the Federal Government to outlaw using the chemical within five years. Alderman James Simpson says alternative methods are needed to protect the health of locals and the environment. "Products in our country should be sent out on our terms," he said. "For a foreign company to dictate what happens in our environment, and which of these ozone-depleting chemicals are let off in our country, I don't think that's really appropriate."

Source: Courier Mail.com.au



Photo: ABC.net.au



Drums of Waste Left Leaking

A company that illegally stockpiled 100 tonnes of waste in a Moorabbin factory will have to pay more than \$330,000 in fines and compensation. Eco-Chem Pty Ltd was last week found guilty of breaching its EPA licence conditions and a clean-up notice after it leased an Ebdon St factory and stored the waste, some of which leaked. The punishment handed down in the Moorabbin Magistrates' Court mirrors the more than \$330,000 in fines handed down to the company's director, Daryl John Owens. The Leader in April reported Owens was convicted after he leased the factory, stockpiled the dry cleaning waste over a number of years and then walked away from the site. Mr Owens, who earlier apologised in court to the property owners, and his company were licensed to store just two tonnes of dry cleaning waste chemicals. EPA chief executive officer John Merritt later said the company had "left an expensive mess for others to clean up". "If you want to operate in this area, be aware you need to follow the rules," Mr Merritt said. "Stockpiling and then abandoning waste is not an option and we will take every opportunity to stamp out this activity." Mr Merritt said the company had underestimated its ability to deal with the amount of waste it collected. The penalties also put to rest the factory owner's fears that she would be forced to pay the damages.

Source: <http://moorabbin-kingston-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/hefty-fine-over-moorabbin-toxic-waste/>

New Standards On-Line

Soon you'll be able to get faster access to Standards when the improved Standards On-Line Service is rolled out. The new version will include: Access to all our publishers (over 300) from one central point.

Faster downloading and Improved navigation design

The ability to filter search results by 'publisher' and 'subject area' (ICS Code)

Quick preview so you can quickly check the document without opening the complete PDF

Streamlined process for ordering PDF and Hardcopy documents and Optional module for indicating which Standards are referenced in Australian legislation

Seamless integration of StandardsWatch

Multiple favourites lists, e.g. by project.





Photo: Epoch Times



Photo: Telegraph

Toll Now 271 After Fireball in Congo

The death toll from the devastating fuel truck explosion in the Democratic Republic of Congo 10 days ago has risen to 271, a local official said on Monday. "We're at 271 dead since the start of the catastrophe," the infrastructure minister for Sud Kivu province, Geronce Balegamire, told reporters. Around 80 injured, some with very serious burns, are still being treated at four of the region's hospitals, he said. Belgium and Israel have both sent burns experts to help treat the injured. The July 2 explosion in the eastern town of Sange erupted after a fuel truck overturned and people gathered around it to syphon off its contents, despite warnings from the driver that it might blow up. The fireball created by the blast spread to a cinema hall where a crowd had gathered to follow World Cup football matches in South Africa. Many of the dead were women and children.

Source:

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=68&art_id=nw20100712221615833C130479

Dry-cleaning Firm Demolishes Flats

The dry-cleaning company Spotless is mopping up after ending a legal stoush over contaminated land, and is knocking down a block of flats at the centre of the dispute. The flats, in Brunswick, Melbourne, have never been occupied because of contamination leaching from former subsidiaries of Spotless operating two doors away. Last week Spotless dropped its appeal against a 2007 Victorian Supreme Court judgment that found it partly liable for the contamination. It has agreed to pay Premier Building and Consulting \$4 million; the developer had sought \$10 million. Spotless, which bought the site from Premier in 2007, hopes demolition work will be completed by the end of next month. Once finished, dry-cleaning chemicals must be removed, a process that will cost \$2.7 million. Discovery of the contamination in 2003 sent Premier to the wall. Its bankers appointed receivers and filed the Supreme Court claim against Spotless. In his judgment, Justice David Byrne castigated Spotless for using the corporate veil to shield itself from fallout from the actions of its subsidiaries. It "reflects no credit on the commercial morality of those whose decision it was that this position be adopted", he said.

Source: Smh.com.au



Government 'Ignored Warnings' over Gas Contamination near Kingaroy

ONE of Queensland's key food-producing areas faces the risk of contamination after the State Government repeatedly ignored warnings of the dangers of a controversial gas project. Tempers boiled over at a public meeting in Kingaroy on Friday night between farmers and a senior Department of Environment and Resource Management bureaucrat after Cougar Energy's underground coal gasification plant was shut down when traces of cancer-causing benzene and toluene were found in groundwater.

Accusations of a company and Government cover-up were also made after it was revealed it took months for Cougar to notify the Government of the contamination and two weeks for the department to notify the public. Residents said they had hit a brick wall with the department.

"Now this is the first we hear from the department and it comes after what we said would happen, happens," one angry resident said. "It's not even something we want to be vindicated on because now it's our livelihood, our health at stake. Our farms, our town, our lives.

"Now it just takes until the water actually starts to be poisoned." Thirteen properties near Kingaroy are being tested for chemical pollutants after contaminated water was discovered near the Cougar Energy UCG plant, but it is believed there may be an impact on up to 100 properties growing corn, peanuts, grapes, soybean and running dairy herds.

But the mainstream gas industry, farmers and commercial reports have all informed the State Government about the contamination threats and the dangers of the controversial energy source. Rural lobby group Agforce also feared the region's reputation was also under threat. Cougar is now being investigated over its handling of the contamination after it was revealed it detected the pollutants in April this year, but did not tell the Government until June 30.

The owners of a tree plantation property, also found to have traces of toluene on June 16, were not notified of the issue until Thursday night. A departmental officer has been stood down pending an investigation into why information about the contamination was not made widely



Kingaroy farmers Damien O'Sullivan and Gary Tessman Picture: Jeff Camden



Photo: ABC News

BP Media Release

Goto:

[Relief Well Operations](#)

[Overview - Kent Wells and](#)

[Relief Well Team - 27 June](#)

[2010](#)

Or:

<http://bp.concerts.com/gom/kwellsreliefwells062710.htm>

Visit Your Website

<http://www.aidgc.com>

**and check out the
Members' Only pages.**

known.

Cougar Energy faces fines of up to \$2 million over the contamination and could be charged with other offences for not reporting the incident to the Government in April. But among the warning bells for the Government was a report two years ago by PricewaterhouseCoopers, commissioned by UCG operator Linc Energy, which found that while there was enormous economic advantages, UCG also presented a risk of groundwater contamination, depletion and ground subsidence.

The gas industry yesterday said it had also been trying to rid the state of UCG operators for years because it did not want to be associated with them because they were not environmentally sustainable. AgForce has also made similar pleas.

Source: The Courier-Mail

And More

On Tuesday, July 20, Cougar shares were further suspended from trade after the company learned a Queensland environmental order won't be lifted until it has been reviewed by a panel.

Cougar's trial underground coal gasification (UCG) project near Kingaroy was halted last week after company tests found traces of the carcinogen benzene and the toxic chemical toluene in bores at the site.

The company was forced to suspend the operation by Queensland's Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) after the results of the tests were reported. Cougar was also directed to undertake an environmental evaluation.

DERM later said results from tests on eight bore sites in and around Cougar's Kingaroy project showed only trace levels of hydrocarbons, and the water was safe.

Cougar's general manager of investor relations Brad Glynne said initial testing that found benzene had later been discovered to be a laboratory error.

He said he was disappointed DERM hadn't already lifted its order suspending the UCG trial.

"It would be very good if the order had been removed but that is not going to happen at this point in time so we have to deal with that and work with the department," Glynne said. "We thought the tests that they did over the weekend ... validated and confirmed exactly our own testing and readings."The test that we reported to DERM that showed

a highly elevated level we thought was a mistake and we told DERM that. "The independent laboratory on Friday morning of last week that did the test admitted that there was a discrepancy, a mistake, and that reading was wrong."

He said Cougar needed to provide information on its environmental evaluation to DERM by August 16, but he was uncertain when a decision would be made about resuming the company's UCG plant at Kingaroy.

UCG is a technology that burns coal underground and uses heat, high pressure and water to create synthetic gas.

Source: <http://industrysearch.com.au>

China Oil Pipeline Fire

A fire blazed for 15 hours after two oil pipelines exploded in the Chinese port city of Dalian. Around 2,000 firefighters and 338 fire engines battled the flames, which broke out after a ship carrying 300,000 tonnes of oil unloaded its cargo. The air force sent two Y8 aircraft with 17.8 tonnes of fire extinguishing agent. The tanker later left undamaged.

No-one was killed in Friday's explosions, but officials considered evacuating some 600 homes nearby.

Flames leapt 30 metres into the air. The pipelines belong to the China National Petroleum Corporation, Asia's largest oil and gas producer by volume. The cause of the blast was not clear.

Officials said the flames gave off gas containing sulphur and an aromatic hydrocarbon - but that they were not fatally toxic.

Exhausted firefighters managed to extinguish the blaze by Saturday. But the accident has reportedly created a fresh clean-up challenge - a huge oil slick, 50 sq km (19 sq miles) in size, off Dalian's Xingang Harbour.

Source: Sify.com



Photos: BBC

Ports across the country will soon experience operational overhauls to prevent another oil spill like the one in Dalian, Northeast China's Liaoning province. In the wake of the accident, the Ministry of Transport, which oversees port operations, circulated a notice on Thursday urging local transport authorities to check on all ports handling dangerous chemicals by August. Special teams will be sent periodically to patrol at major oil and chemical ports to help detect hidden hazards, according to the notice. Ports handling oil, liquefied chemicals and gases are required to carry out checkups on themselves every two years. They should also prepare an emergency response plan and carry out drills, the notice said. The ministry said it also plans to establish a database of all ports that handle dangerous articles. Source: China Daily

TestSafe Australia has recently released its new DVD. It includes testimonials from staff, clients and operations at Thornleigh. Copies are available on request from Debbie on (02) 4724 4905.

WorkCover Introductory Workshops

These introductory workshops provide information and practical advice on the safe use and storage of chemicals, hazardous substances and dangerous goods in the workplace.

**Moree & District Services Club
Albert Street, Moree
27 July - 10.00am to 12.00pm**

**Albury Sailors, Soldiers & Airmens Club
570-580 Olive Street, Albury
4 August - 2.00pm to 4.00pm**

**Matraville RSL Club
2 Norfolk Parade, Matraville
11 August 2010 - 9.30am to 11.30am**

**Finley RSL
60 Tocumwal Street, Finley
18 August - 2.00pm to 4.00pm**

**Richmond Club
6 East Market Street, Richmond
18 August 2010 - 1.30pm to 3.30pm**

**Apollo Hotel
290 Pacific Highway, Charlestown
19 August 2010 - 9.30am to 11.30am**

**Cessnock Ex-Services Club
201 Vincent Street, Cessnock
24 August 2010 - 6.00pm to 8.00pm**

**Coffs Harbour Golf Club
Earl Street, Coffs Harbour
26 August 2010 - 9.30am to 11.30am**

**Riverside Restaurant & Function Centre
13-31 Campbell Street, Inverell
26 August 2010 - 10.00am to 12.00pm**

You can register online:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/forms/Pages/EventsSearch.aspx>

Mumbai Chlorine Gas Leak

The Mumbai Police has registered a case against unknown persons under the Environment Protection Act in connection with the chlorine gas leak in Mumbai Port Trust on Wednesday, in which over 100 people fell sick. The charges included in the First Information Report (FIR) are attempt to commit culpable homicide, causing hurt by dangerous weapon, negligent conduct with respect to poisonous substance and endangering life or personal





Photo: Flashnewstoday.com



safety of others. "We have registered an FIR against unidentified persons (in the gas leakage case) at Sewri police station and started probing the matter," DCP Khalid Kaisar told PTI. "When the cylinders were brought here to the Port Trust, who imported them and why they were lying since over ten decades will be among the various things the police would look into it," he said. The DCP said the Port Trust has been guarding the cylinders and as of now the police are not holding the Port Trust responsible for the incident. Meanwhile, the clean-up at the site is on. "Overnight three cylinders containing chlorine gas have been neutralised unto 80 per cent. One cylinder is giving a problem as its gas valve is not functioning. So neutralising that cylinder is taking time. They will take at least another 24 hours to complete the operation," said Vinay Kajla, Commandant, CISF, Mumbai Port Trust Division. At 3.15 on Wednesday morning, a gas leak from a chlorine cylinder at the Mumbai Port Trust filled the air. At least a 100 people fell sick when they inhaled the gas. The condition of eight persons, admitted in JJ hospital, is said to be critical. For more than six hours, fire-fighters tried to neutralize the gas filling the air with sodium hydroxide sprays. The major fear: that there are more than a hundred cylinders similar to the one that caused this morning's disaster lying in the same warehouse. "That is supposed to be an empty cylinder of chlorine, but sometimes you have residual chlorine which remains in the cylinder and that leaked out," explained Rahul Asthana, the Deputy Chairman of the Mumbai Port Trust. So who is responsible for them? "They were not taken by the importer and they are lying confiscated here in the hazardous cargo go-down," said Asthana. A 45-member team of the National Disaster Response Force was brought in from Pune to figure out how to safely dispose the remaining cylinders. "Out of 105 cylinders that have been found, 100 are clean but five still have chlorine in them. We are trying to neutralise them on the spot," SA Ahmed, Assistant Commandant of the National Disaster Response Force said on Wednesday. One container takes six hours to neutralise and these should be cleaned by Thursday morning, he added. Ahmed also said, "To ensure safety we have asked people to leave the area and have cordoned it off. Both colleges in the area have been evacuated. I have requested the state government to check if there are other cylinders like this in other

locations." The big questions that officials now have to answer: Given that these cylinders were confiscated 15 years ago, why have they still not been disposed of when it was clear that these contained hazardous material? Further, why did nobody seem aware that the cylinders still had some chlorine in them? The Shipping Ministry has also ordered the Mumbai Port Trust to file a detailed report on how such a leak could occur. "The Mumbai Port Trust is checking its records to find out if any action had been taken for the disposal of hazardous material in the past," said an official statement from the Mumbai Port Trust.

Source:

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/cities/mumbai-chlorine-leak-police-file-fir-100-sick-37548>

Plastic Containers for Flammable Liquids/Hazardous Areas

This report from HSE/UK contains an assessment of the electrostatic risks associated with a selection of commonly available plastic containers ranging in size from 50 ml bottles to 1000 l Intermediate Bulk Containers, and manufactured from a variety of materials.

The containers are assessed by measuring the amount of charge transferred from their surfaces in an electrostatic discharge, after being charged by rubbing with the most suitable materials for optimum charging. The charge transfer values obtained can then be compared to maximum permitted values for different gas groups contained in EN13463-1:2001.

Incendivity tests were also conducted on the discharges from the containers, which give an indication of typical amounts of charge transfer actually required for ignition in a practical situation, as a guide for incident ignition assessments.

A description of the types and purposes of most of the various designs of IBC currently available is included, in particular those designed for zone 1 and zone 2 usages. This report and the work it describes were funded by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Its contents, including any opinions and/or conclusions expressed, are those of the author alone and do not necessarily reflect HSE policy.

To view the full report goto:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrpdf/rr804.pdf>





Fatal Workshop Explosion

It is believed a man was killed when welding a fuel tank at a boat repair business in Paget in Mackay yesterday. (7pm TV News QLD)

Investigations are continuing into a fatal explosion at a workshop in Mackay in north Queensland.

It is believed the man, aged in his 30s, was killed when welding a fuel tank at a boat repair business in Paget in Mackay yesterday afternoon when it exploded, ripping a hole in the roof and sending debris into the air.

The work site was extensively damaged and police say four co-workers are lucky to have escaped injury.

Witness Kelvin Trim says the blast sounded like dynamite and the impact of the blast was felt in nearby businesses.

"We were just having a quick smoko there and all of a sudden there was an explosion and we ... turned around and all we could see was a massive amount of flames, tyres - all sorts of things - going through the roof," he said.

"Flames were leaping out through that hole in the roof.

"First initial thoughts were it was like an explosion of dynamite or something like that - it just actually rocked some of the tables over there - it was quite severe."

Acting Inspector Simon Palmer says several co-workers were lucky to escape injury.

"There were approximately four people within the immediate building and some of those persons were actually pushed back by the blast but everyone's been checked by Queensland ambulance and anyone who's left this area is fine," he said.

Acting Inspector Palmer says the work site was extensively damaged.

"It appears quite a bit of force has been involved in the actual explosion, as a result of damage to the ceiling of the building but until we complete an investigation we won't know the actual cause of it," he said.

Police are preparing a report for the coroner and Workplace Health and Safety officers are also investigating the cause of the accident.

Source: ABCNews

NICNAS Matters

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