AIDGC Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

June 2010

Welcome to our New Associate Members

Kevin Blackie
Queensland

Marshall Butterworth
Queensland

Jim Kelty
New South Wales

Nayyar Shah
New South Wales

Venessa Thelan
New South Wales

Gary Lim Wen
New South Wales

Buncefield: Three Firms Found Guilty

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid/Getty Images

A joint statement from the UK Health and Safety Executive and the IK Environment Agency regarding today's jury verdicts in the Buncefield trial.

A jury at St Albans' Crown Court found TAV Engineering Ltd guilty of failing to protect workers and members of the public following an investigation into the explosion and fire at Buncefield Oil Storage Depot on 11 December 2005.

Motherwell Control Systems 2003 Ltd was found guilty earlier this week of the same charge.

Earlier this week Hertfordshire Oil Storage Limited was found guilty of failing to prevent major accidents and limit their effects. Today they also pleaded guilty to causing pollution to enter controlled waters underlying the vicinity around Buncefield.

DIARY DATES FOR 2010

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

Details shortly

AIDGC Annual Conference
Sydney
September 17

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Environment Agency are the 'Competent Authority' responsible for regulating non-nuclear major hazardous industrial sites in the UK under the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999 (COMAH). As the competent authority, the Health and Safety Executive and Environment Agency have a responsibility to investigate major incidents and ensure that lessons are learned.
The Health & Safety Executive and the Environment Agency said:
"This was the biggest and most complex criminal inquiry we have worked on together - the product of many hundreds of hours of painstaking forensic investigation.
"When companies put workers and members of the public at risk and cause environmental damage we will prosecute.
"When the largest fire in peacetime Europe tore through the Buncefield site on that Sunday morning in December 2005, these companies had failed to protect workers, members of the public and the environment.
"The scale of the explosion and fire at Buncefield was immense and it was miraculous that nobody died. Unless the high hazard industries truly learn the lessons, then we may not be that fortunate in future."

Sentencing is planned to take place on 16 July 2010 at St Albans Crown Court. Two companies have already pleaded guilty to charges over the incident:

> **Total UK Ltd, of 40 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, has pleaded guilty to three charges.**
> **British Pipeline Agency Ltd, of 5-7 Alexandra Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, has pleaded guilty to two charges.**

A full list of charges is below:
Total UK Ltd, of 40 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to three charges on 13 November 2009:
Between the 1st day of January 2003 and the 12th day of December 2005 Total UK Ltd failed to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of its employees, contrary to Section 2(1) and 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

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

Between the 1st day of January 2003 and 12th day of December 2005, Total UK Ltd failed to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in their employment were not exposed to risks to their health or safety, contrary to Sections 3(1) and 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Between the 10th day of December 2005 and the 31st day of December 2005, Total UK Ltd caused polluting matter, namely fuel and firewater chemicals to enter controlled waters, namely ground waters in the chalk aquifer underlying the vicinity of Buncefield, contrary to s.85(1) and (6) of the Water Resources Act 1991.

Hertfordshire Oil Storage Ltd, of 40 Clarendon Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, faced two charges:
Found guilty - Between the 1st day of January 2003 and the 12th day of December 2005, Hertfordshire Oil Storage Ltd failed to take all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences to persons and the environment, contrary to Regulation 4 of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 and section 33(1)(c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.
Pleaded guilty
Between the 10th day of December 2005 and the 31st day of December 2005, Hertfordshire Oil Storage Ltd caused polluting matter, namely fuel and firewater chemicals to enter controlled waters, namely ground waters in the chalk aquifer underlying the vicinity of Buncefield, contrary to s.85(1) and (6) of the Water Resources Act 1991.
British Pipeline Agency Ltd, of 5-7 Alexandra Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, pleaded guilty to two charges on 13 January 2009:
Between the 18th day of November 2001 and the 12th day of December 2005, British Pipeline Agency Ltd failed to take all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences to persons and the environment, contrary to Regulation 4 of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 and section 33(1)(c) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Between the 10th day of December 2005 and the 31st day of December 2005, British Pipeline Agency Ltd caused polluting matter, namely fuel and firewater chemicals to

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

enter controlled waters, namely ground waters in the chalk aquifer underlying the vicinity of Buncefield, contrary to s.85(1) and (6) of the Water Resources Act 1991.

TAV Engineering Ltd, of The Oriel, Sydenham Road, Guildford, Surrey, faced one charge:
Found guilty - Between the 1st day of October 2003 and the 12th day of December 2005, TAV Engineering Limited failed to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in their employment were not exposed to risks to their health or safety, contrary to Sections 3(1) and 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

Motherwell Control Systems 2003 Ltd, c/o Rooney Associates 2nd Floor, 19 Castle Street, Liverpool, is faced one charge, (please note - a not guilty plea was entered by the judge on the company's behalf as it is in liquidation):

Found guilty - Between the 28th day of September 2003 and the 12th day of December 2005 Motherwell Control Systems 2003 Limited failed to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in their employment were not exposed to risks to their health or safety, contrary to Sections 3(1) and 33(1)(a) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

To download audio and visual evidence heard during the trial visit http://www.hse.gov.uk/news/buncefield/index.htm
Source: Ellen Branagh, Press Association

Oil Spill Resources Centre (US)

Oil spill response workers may be exposed to many different chemical, physical, biological, and psychological hazards. These hazards vary depending on the type and location of the oil spill, type and stage of response, degree of coordination between entities involved in response and recovery, and the workers‘ specific tasks. Therefore, occupational and environmental hazards need to be identified, assessed, and monitored in each oil spill response.

More At: http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/oilspillresponse/

The old ammunition factory site, which is to be developed for housing.

Photo: Craig Abraham

An artist's impression of the new suburb

Source: theage.com.au

Vic Housing Site is Toxic

More than 120 chemicals, many of them known carcinogens, were used at a former Defense site to be developed for housing. About 3000 homes will be built on the former Maribyrnong munitions factory site that produced bombs and high explosives for almost 100 years. The full list of toxins has been disclosed for the first time in Federal Parliament:

Soda ash, phenols, sulphate, sulphite, hydrochloric acid, ferrocyanides, calcium chloride, sodium fluoride, methyl orange (acidbase indicator), hydrogen peroxide, sodium hydroxide, nitric acid (weak), iodine, nitric acid (strong), mercury, sodium carbonate, tetrachloromethane, sulphuric acid (weak), pyridine, sulphuric acid (strong), carbon tetrachloride, thiocyanates, glycerine/glycerol, ethyl alcohol, ammonium carbonate, sodium chlorate, calcium carbonate, calcium nitrate, caustic soda, hydroxylamine, gun cotton mixed acid, acetic acid, mixed acid, ethanol, acetaldehydes, cotton, paper, additives, nitroglycerine, nitrocellulose, acetone, candelilla wax, potassium cryolite, lead salicylate, potassium nitrate, carbamite, benzene, toluene, mononitrotoluene, mononitrobiuret, sodium sulphite, methylated spirit, magnesium carbonate, sulphur, iron filings, trinitrotoluene (TNT), aluminium powder, amatol, baratol, research department explosive (RDX), minol, tetryl, beeswax, ammonium nitrate, paint, toluene diisocyanate, trioctylphosphinic oxide, lubricants and corrosion preventatives, plastics and rubbers, varnishes and lacquers, insulants, cellulose acetate, lead salts, polyurethane, solventless cordite, cast composite propellant, cast double base propellant, extruded double base propellant, plastic propellant, explosives and explosive compositions, polybutadiene, inhibitors, ammonium styphnate, ammonium perchlorate, alcohol, wet fulminate, mercury nitrate, fulminate, lead nitrate, styphnic acid, sodium azide, lead acetate, dextrin, 4:6 dinitroresorcinol, industrial methylated spirit, sodium nitrate, azide acid, sodium carboxyl-methyl cellulose, mercury fulminate, lead azide, lead 2:4 dinitroresorcinol, silver azide, barium styphnate, tetrazene, shellac, magnesium styphnate, lead styphnate, diethylene glycol, potassium chlorate, strontium carbonate, linseed oil, accroid resin, charcoal, calomel, solvent naphtha, epoxy resins, trichloroethylene, magnesium powder, methyl ethyl ketone, strontium carbonate, paraffin wax, nitrate of soda, methyl alcohol, aniline, aniline hydrochloride, ethyl aniline, phosgene, dimethyl aniline.

Source: Ben Packham, Herald Sun

Chlorine Leak: 300 Fall Ill in Nigeria

A chlorine gas leak led 300 people to fall ill in northern Nigeria after a welder cut into a tank of the noxious gas, Nigerian environmental officials said Sunday. The Minister of Nigeria's Environmental Ministry, said the leak started in Kaduna. He said people became ill and passed out after breathing in the gas. He said emergency services controlled the leak after soaking the tank in water. Industrial disasters occur regularly in oil-rich Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, either from carelessness, failing pipelines or theft. In 2008, an oil pipeline explosion in Lagos killed 100 people, while more than 400 people died in two similar explosions in the city in 2006.

Source: http://www.metronews.ca/vancouver

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 and Peter Hunt for their contributions.

SA Fumes Explosion: Employee Fined

The duties of employees under South Australia's workplace safety laws have been highlighted in a case completed today in the SA Industrial Relations Court. James Lawless was convicted and fined $4 400 after pleading guilty to a breach of section 21(1a) of the *Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986.* This section of the Act details the legal duties of employees to take reasonable care to keep themselves and others safe at work through their actions or otherwise. SafeWork SA prosecuted after investigating an incident in June 2007 at a West Croydon business which manufactures pressure equipment products, such as boilers and air compressor units. Three workers were painting the inside of a large pressure vessel: a task that involved pouring paint into the vessel and rotating it to ensure the inner surface was covered. This caused a buildup of fumes, which were released when a flange was later opened. The court heard that the fumes were ignited when the defendant then lit a cigarette lighter while standing nearby, apparently unaware of the presence of flammable vapours and in breach of a non-smoking policy in the workplace. Two workers were injured in the resulting blast; one suffering severe burns to 25 per cent of his body. In his penalty decision today, Industrial Magistrate Michael Ardlie said more serious injuries could have resulted and the defendant *"...should not have ignited his cigarette lighter... without first consulting with the other employees..."*

In November last year, the man's employer was convicted and fined *$30,000* after the company pleaded guilty to failing to provide a safe working environment over the same incident.

SafeWork SA says the case underscores the need for employees to play their part in keeping workplaces safe through being aware of the relevant hazards and safety procedures and acting promptly and consistently to keep themselves and others safe.

"The legal responsibility for workplace safety is not just confined to employers," says Acting Executive Director, Juanita Lovatt.

"Employees also have a duty under the law and where the circumstances warrant, SafeWork SA will prosecute where a serious breach is uncovered."

http://www.safework.sa.gov.au/show_page.jsp?id=8526#item50028

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

Alcan Mine in NT Says "No Worries"

Rio Tinto-owned Alcan says there's nothing to worry about - allowing tonnes of hydrate to spill while being loaded on to ships for export is harmless. The hydrate contains caustic soda, which can cause severe burns. It admitted that 30 tonnes of hydrate was dropped straight into Melville Bay near Nhulunbuy last month. But in a statement issued from its Brisbane office, the company said there was "no environmental harm or risk to employees or community members".

Workers at the multibilliondollar bauxite mine disagree. They said the photograph showed the extent of the problem. "Tonnes of hydrate is lost during every shipment," one worker said. "It goes into the air and into the harbour." NT Resources Minister Kon Vatskalis said the Northern Territory Government would carry out its own investigation into the pollution. Alcan said it was reviewing ship loading procedures at the port.

The Port Corporation broke the law by not reporting the pollution.

Source: Nigel Adlam – Herald Sun

Major Hazard Industries: Human Factors

The UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has recently published two significant reports assisting both it and other organizations sharing the aim of using human factors to better manage and prevent the risk of major accident hazards. The reports can be viewed at:
http://www.sro.hse.gov.uk/PublicPages/ShowArticle.aspx?id=154

Diesel Spill in the Swan River, WA

The Swan River Trust has responded to a diesel spill in the Swan River near the Pier 21 marina in North Fremantle. Absorbent materials are being used to clean up the spill, which was reported to the Trust by a member of the public and a charter vessel.

The Trust is investigating the source of the spill. Water police and the departments of Transport and Environment and Conservation are also assisting.

http://www.inmycommunity.com.au/news-and-views/local-news/Diesel-spill-in-Swan/7558408/

A 10-million-litre petrol tank at an Altona refinery sprung a leak and emergency services workers are on the scene. Picture: Chris Scott Source: Herald Sun

Picture: ABC-TV

See Also: The International Campaign for Justice In Bhopal

http://bhopal.net/2010dharma/blog/

An interesting site with regular updates, the class action suit against Union Carbide Corporation and activities of organizations for survivors of the disaster.

New MHF Licence Provisions for Mobil's Altona, Vic Refinery

WORKSAFE Victoria has imposed new conditions on Mobil's licence to operate its Altona refinery. According to WORKSAFE Victoria, these conditions have been put in place because of persisting health and safety incidents at the facility. It has also been reporting more incidents than other facilities of a similar size. WORKSAFE Victoria is encouraging Mobil to identify any shortcomings in their safety inspection and maintenance systems, and rectify them before incidents have a chance to occur.

The new Major Hazard Facilities licence conditions will last until December 2012. However, a deadline in November requires Mobil to analyse past incidents to identify the causes, and address causes through improvements to safety inspection and maintenance systems, and demonstrate that these improvements mean the risk of incidents is significantly reduced.

Source: http://www.safetowork.com.au/news/New-MHF-licence-conditions-for-Mobils-Altona-refi

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

Twenty five years after the Bhopal gas tragedy claimed 15,000 lives, the city is still fuming. The local court on June 7 convicted eight executives of Union Carbide and sentenced them to two years of imprisonment. The guilty have been granted bail and released on submission of a surety of just Rs 25,000.

The government says the disaster killed around 3,500. But activists calculate that 8,000 people died in the immediate aftermath and thousands more have died of illnesses related to gas exposure in the years that followed. They say a total of 25,000 people have died since 1984.

Activists and health workers say a further 100,000 people who were exposed to the gas continue to suffer chronic health problems today.

Sicknesses range from cancer, blindness, respiratory difficulties, immune and neurological disorders, female reproductive disorders as well as birth defects among children born to affected women.

Source: News Center

Qld Truck's Chemical Cargo Explodes

A ball of flames engulfs the trailer causing a thick plume of chemical smoke.

Peter Collins, Channel 9

Chemical specialists and emergency service personnel worked until late on June 7 to decontaminate the scene of a major truck fire near Millmerran. The blaze involved a truck carrying volatile farm chemicals which caught fire and exploded early yesterday morning. Quick thinking and luck narrowly averted a major disaster. Fire authorities believe that if the driver had stopped in the town rather than on the outskirts the situation could have become dire. The driver of the road train pulled up two kilometres east of Millmerran on the Gore Highway when the driver was alerted to a fire about 1.30am. Another truck driver alerted him via a two-way radio of a fire coming from near the wheels of the second trailer. He stopped and after unsuccessfully attempting to extinguish the fire himself was helped by two other truck drivers to unhook the burning trailer and drive the truck and first trailer to safety.

Tyres and 20-litre chemical drums of seven types of insecticide, herbicide and fungicide exploded causing a poisonous haze. Police and firemen closed the highway and an exclusion zone was put in place two kilometres either side of the trailer as wind shifted the chemical haze around. Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Toowoomba Superintendent Bruce Smith said there were flames and drums shooting 30 metres into the air. "We couldn't go near it for about an hour". Foam was used to extinguish the trailer fire about 4.30am after the drums stopped exploding. "It would appear the fire started from either a heated bearing on one of the axles or from a brake malfunction." Fire officers conducted air sampling in a one-and-a-half kilometre radius of the trailer, but these returned negative readings for toxicity. Toowoomba Regional Council, Environmental Protection Agency, Main Roads, Department of Health and Environmental Health Office representatives were involved in the extensive clean-up. QFRS Inspector Eddie Lacko said an air-conditioned front end loader was used to load burnt chemical drums into a mini skip. "The water and chemical run-off has been covered with sawdust to absorb it," Mr Lacko said. The trailer was decontaminated and removed and lime was spread around the site to further neutralize any remaining chemicals.

Source: AAP

Mines & Quarries AX/NZS 4871 New Electrical Equipment

The AS/NZS 4871, Electrical equipment for mines and quarries Series sets out the requirements for the design, construction and testing for electrical equipment for mining and quarrying activities. Have a look at the newly revised parts:

- AS/NZS 4871.1:2010, General requirements
- AS/NZS 4871.2:2010, Distribution, control and auxiliary equipment
- AS/NZS 4871.3:2010, Substations
- AS/NZS 4871.4:2010, Mains powered electrical mobile machines
- AS/NZS 4871.5:2010, Battery powered electrical mobile machines

Driver Fined Over Botched Chemical Delivery

The Heidelberg, Vic Magistrates'Court has convicted a truck driver following a December 2008 chemical incident at packaging company in Reservoir. The driver pleaded guilty after being charged of causing an environmental hazard. He was ordered to pay $6,700. The Court was told the man, who was a subcontractor, delivered 18,000 liters of sodium hypochlorite (hypo) to the packaging company's factory. Part of his task was to make sure the contents were pumped into the hypo tank. He connected his truck to a tank, not realizing that it was not the hypo tank. Shortly thereafter a yellow plume developed, prompting the driver to stop the pumps and shut off the tanker's valves. The company's chemist then arrived at the scene and saw the delivered chemical was being pumped in the wrong tank. A cloud of chlorine gas was released from the tank and moved in a southerly direction through the company's premises. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was alerted, and the people at the premises and surrounding buildings had to be evacuated. Fourteen people had to be taken to the hospital for eye and lung irritation. Everyone was discharged on the same day. Environment Protection Authority Victoria's chief executive officer John Merritt said this serves as a reminder to remain vigilant when dealing with dangerous chemicals. It is imperative people handling chemicals understand the implicit danger they can present to human health along with the environment and always keep that front of mind.

Source: http://www.safetyculture.com.au/news/

Toxic Waste Goes to Denmark

A company in Denmark has agreed to take toxic waste from the site of the former ICI chemical plant in southern Sydney. Orica is packaging about 6,000 tonnes of hexachlorobenzene (HCB) at Botany for a Danish waste incineration company. An earlier plan to send the waste to Germany was scuttled by German authorities. European environment groups have urged the Australian Government to ban the export. A statement released by Orica says formal approval by the Danish Environment Protection Agency allows Australia's Environment Minister to decide whether to approve the export.

Source: http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/16/2928623.htm

Hazardous Area Lamps

The following is advice on an apparently new item which may be of interest to members. The product is not endorsed by AIDGC and members should make their own enquiries as to its suitability

"NHP, sole Australian distributor for the STAHL range of IEC Ex hazardous area equipment, has released the STAHL 6149 Toughlux handlamps series. According to the distributor, the compact, lightweight and ergonomic hazardous area lighting units have an anti-roll profile and suspension. The company claims prior to their release, the only options for hazardous area handlamps used fluorescent lamps which made them vulnerable to breakages in rough areas. The tough new units utilise cold cathode technology. The lamps are suited for Zones 1 and 2, and 21 and 22."

http://production.safetowork.com.au/products/hazardous-area-lamps?utm_source=20100617&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletters

Fuel Leak in Arnhem Land

The Northern Territory Opposition says the Government needs to ensure that correct processes are followed after reports of a 70,000-litre fuel leak at Nhulunbuy's Alcan refinery. The leak was discovered when a large fuel tank that was meant to be full was found to be empty. The Department of Resources is investigating how the spill happened and is looking at Rio Tinto's response, and whether any action needs to be taken against the company. The Opposition's Peter Chandler says accidents happen, but he wants to know how the spill is being dealt with. "I think it is incumbent on Government to step in and make sure that they follow the correct processes, if at all they've got processes in place," he said. "And I worry, as we just seem to have week on, week on, week on, just more incidents where our harbour, our general environment, is being polluted, or just where their processes have broken down." Mr Chandler says not enough detail has been released on the spill. "If this 70,000 litres of fuel has disappeared, it's got to have gone somewhere," he said. "Was it protected by a bunt wall, was it protected in some other manner, or was it just able to release itself into the ground and potentially damage ground water or other areas of our environment?"

Source: http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/06/14/2926313.htm?section=business

Video: Dangers of Hot Work

Key lessons to prevent flammable vapor explosions caused by welding and cutting, from US Chemical Safety Board.

Investigation Details:

Seven Key Lessons to Prevent Worker Deaths During Hot Work In and Around Tanks

http://www.csb.gov/videoroom/detail.aspx?VID=44

IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations

There are significant changes and amendments in the 51st edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations incorporating all amendments made by the Dangerous Goods Board and includes changes advised, at time of printing, by ICAO to the 2009-2010 Edition of the ICAO Technical Instructions.

http://www.dgtraining.com/Resources/regulation_updates/IATA-51ST-SIGNIFICANT.pdf

If you have seen something unusual and wish to report it, please contact the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400 or hotline@nationalsecurity.gov.au.

Australia - Chemical Security

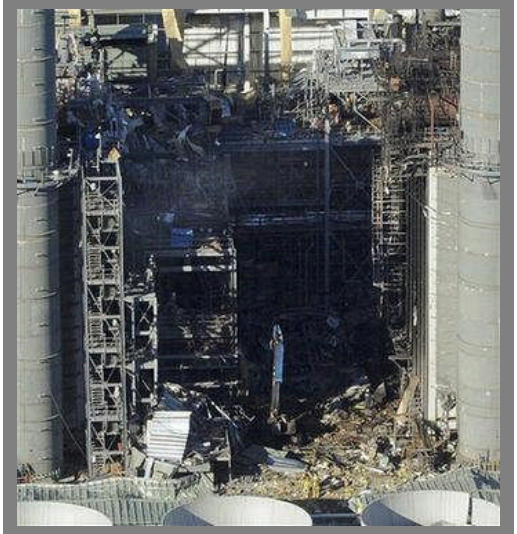
The Australian Government, in partnership with State and Territory governments, is working closely with industry to keep Australia safe from terrorism. Chemicals have been used in terrorist attacks throughout the world. These chemicals are commonly available in domestic, agricultural, veterinary, industrial and beauty products.

In many cases, terrorists acquire chemicals from the same locations as the general public. For business, your vigilance in 'knowing your customer' may make the difference in preventing a terrorist attack. The general community is also being encouraged 'if you suspect it report it'.

Toxic Chemicals Used by BP on Gulf Oil

According to Mr. Sjur Knudsen, the managing director of the Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies (NOFO, the organization tasked with responding to oil spills in Norway's waters) the dispersant Corexit 9500 that BP has been spraying over the Gulf spill and injecting one mile deep into the blowout vent, is banned by the UK and Norway, due to its high toxicity. "[Corexit] 9500 is forbidden to use in the North Sea offshore oil industry," Mr. Knudsen explained. BP has been using massive amounts of the oil dispersant Corexit 9500 to try to break up the Gulf Oil spill. Lisa Jackson, administrator of the EPA, estimated that BP had already used 700,000 gallons of the dispersant in the gulf. On May 20, concerned about the toxicity of Corexit 9500, Ms. Jackson ordered BP to find an alternative to it within 24 hours, "if operationally possible." BP determined it had no other effective alternatives available in large quantities and failed to comply. On May 27, Ms. Jackson testified before Congress that BP had reduced its use of dispersants from an estimated 70,000 gallons a day to 12,000 gallons a day. At the same hearing, Ms. Jackson complained that BP was more interested in defending its choice to use Corexit than in finding other options.
At the May 27 Congressional hearing, Congressman Jerrod Nadler (D-New York) compared the use of Corexit to that of Agent Orange. He also said, "We are conducting an uncontrolled experiment with all the marine and human life in the Gulf Coast region that could result in thousands and thousands of people getting sick or dying."
Source: The Epoch Times

Example of a gas blow.
Note: this photo was not taken at Kleen Energy



The Kleen Energy natural gas power plant after the explosion
Photo by Malaycobra

USA: Pipe Cleaning Practices that Led to Kleen Energy Explosion Are Common Across Gas Energy Industry - Survey Data

The practice of using flammable natural gas to clean power plant piping, which led to the fatal explosion at Connecticut-based Kleen Energy on February 7, has been commonly used across the gas-fired power generating industry, CSB investigators said.

The explosion, which killed six workers and injured at least 50 others, occurred during a "gas blow" – a planned effort to clean out new fuel-gas piping leading to combustion turbines by directing high-pressure natural gas through the pipes and out of vents located near ground level, adjacent to the power generation building. The gas accumulated above the lower explosive limit and ignited, causing massive damage to the new billion-dollar facility, which was nearing completion.

The ignition source for the blast has not been determined. CSB investigators said the construction site had many possible ignition sources, and that gas blows could also self-ignite if debris ejected from piping impacted other objects nearby, creating sparks – adding to the risk of the practice.

The plant was designed to use a "combined cycle" to efficiently generate electricity. In this type of facility, natural gas is combusted to drive massive turbines, and then residual heat is recovered from the exhaust gases to produce additional power through the use of steam turbines. Newly constructed pipes frequently have debris and other contaminants that can damage gas turbine blades, necessitating some form of pipe cleaning prior to start-up.

CSB investigators will present the new findings, derived from a survey of 62 representatives from the combined-cycle gas power industry, at professional society meetings in Maryland and Connecticut this week. Thirty-nine survey respondents (63%) indicated their companies had at some time used flammable natural gas to blow out piping. Only one of those 39 respondents said a flare was used to safely combust the gas prior to venting to the atmosphere. According to the survey, using natural gas to clean pipes remains the most common single practice in industry, employed by 37% of respondents. The other respondents reported using nitrogen, which is

www.csb.gov/newsroom/detail.aspx?nid=306

Visit their website:
www.csb.gov

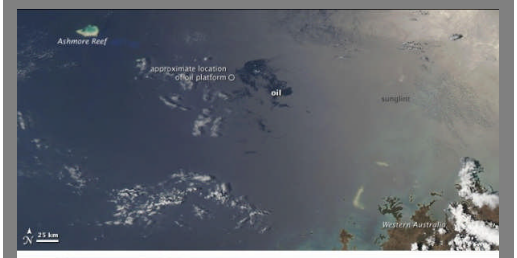
nonflammable, or inherently safer alternatives such as air, steam, or cleaning pigs. On February 25, 2010, eighteen days after the explosion at Kleen Energy, the CSB stated that natural gas blows were "inherently unsafe" and urged industry to seek alternatives. "The industry survey confirms that there are readily available safe alternatives to using flammable natural gas for pipe cleaning," said CSB Investigator Dan Tillema, P.E. "At the same time, a disturbing number of companies continue to use natural gas which creates the serious risk of a fire or explosion." "Venting any significant amount of natural gas into a workplace is an open invitation to disaster," said CSB Chairman John Bresland. "With more than 120 new gas power plants slated for completion in the next five years, there is an urgent need to ensure safety during the construction and maintenance of gas piping. The CSB will be considering recommendations to promote safer practices in industries that use natural gas as fuel.

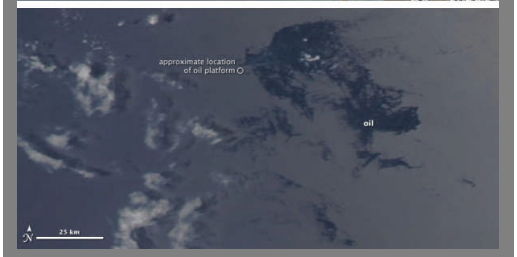
In February 2010, the CSB issued urgent safety recommendations to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to prohibit indoor venting of natural gas during purging operations within the national fuel gas code, known as NFPA 54. However, the explosion at Kleen Energy occurred during outdoor venting of a massive quantity of gas. Power plants are in any case exempt from the national fuel gas code, which is developed and maintained by nongovernmental consensus committees administered by the NFPA and the American Gas Association, an industry group.

Chairman Bresland said he anticipated the CSB would convene a public hearing in Connecticut in late June to consider further recommendations to prevent accidents involving the planned venting of natural gas at workplaces. The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating serious chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA.

Aerial photo of the Montara offshore oil platform and West Atlas mobile drilling rig. On August 21, 2009, a well on the platform blew out as a new well was being drilled, and both the rig and the platform were immediately evacuated. Oil and gas condensate are spewing uncontrolled into the Timor Sea off Western Australia, and will continue to do so for at least 7-8 weeks until a new rig can be brought into the vicinity to drill a relief well. Photo by Chris Twomey, courtesy of WA Today.





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Past editions here:
http://ssa.org.au/magazine/2010_autumn/index.php
http://ssa.org.au/magazine/2009_summer/index.php
http://ssa.org.au/magazine/2009_spring/index.php
http://ssa.org.au/magazine/2009_winter/index.php

Australia Receives Oil Spill Report

The Federal Government has received the report into the Montara oil spill but will not release details just yet.

The Australian government has received the final report from an investigation into last year's offshore oil leak in the Timor Sea, but has not said when it will make the findings public. The spill from the West Atlas rig and Montara wellhead platform off northwest Australia began in August last year, and lasted for 11 weeks leaking an estimated 30,000 barrels of oil into the sea between Western Australia and Indonesia. The environmental impact of that spill and the current leak in the Gulf of Mexico has cast a spotlight on offshore drilling off Australia's coast with opposition politicians calling for a suspension on new projects and tighter regulations on the industry. But Australian officials have said they will not release the findings of the report into the Timor Sea leak, one of Australia's worst spills, until "legal constraints" have been cleared. Speaking before receiving the report, Martin Ferguson, Australia's resources minister, said that the findings of the investigation would be important to improving safety and regulation of the drilling industry. However, less than a year after the Timor Sea spill, the government has opened new areas to offshore exploration. Last month, Ferguson invited companies to bid for permits to explore new "frontiers" of exploration, with companies such as Royal Dutch Shell and ConocoPhillips are among those planning more than $185bn in local oil and gas projects. Ferguson ruled out on Thursday suspending offshore drilling, and offered 31 leases in waters as deep as 3750 metres, more than twice the depth of BP's leaking well in the Gulf of Mexico. Opposition to the plans has been growing with campaigners urging the government to ensure tighter and more effective regulation of the industry.

Source:
http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia-pacific/2010/06/201061831828487840.html

The Service Station Australia E-Mag.

The latest electronic magazine from the Service Station Association of Australia is now available:
http://ssa.org.au/magazine/2010_winter/index.php

You can turn the pages by clicking on the top or bottom corner of each page.

Visit Your Website

http://www.aidgc.com and check out the Members' Only pages.

NSW & Victoria WORKCOVER Boards

NSW WorkCover Board

Minister for Finance, Michael Daley, announced on 7th June that a new Board of Directors has been appointed to oversee the strategic direction of WorkCover NSW.

The Board has been appointed for a three-year term and includes seven part-time directors and the Chief Executive Officer

Greg McCarthy AAII – Chair. A Board member since 2002, appointed Chair in 2005. Greg has more than 30 years experience in workers compensation, third party insurance and rehabilitation disability management.

Nicholas Whitlam* - Deputy Chair. Former NRMA President with more than 40 years experience in banking and finance. Nick is a member of the NSW Workers Compensation Insurance Fund Investment Board and the Chair of the NSW Lifetime Care and Support Authority Board.

Geniere Aplin* MBA, BLaw – Extensive experience in banking and commercial insurance. Geniere is Chair of the NSW Motor Accidents Authority Board.

Sue Clark BA, LLB, LLM, MBA, Dip Financial Markets – A Board member since 2004, with extensive experience in the insurance industry across the public and private sector.

Lisa Hunt BA LLB – Ex Officio member. WorkCover NSW CEO. Lisa has significant private and public sector experience and is also the Chief Executive of the Workers Compensation Authorities Staff Division.

Mark Lennon BComm, LLB – A Board member since 2007 with a solid history in occupational health and safety and industrial relations in a trade union environment. Mark is the Secretary of Unions NSW.

Carolyn Walsh* BE - Extensive experience in government, transport safety, accident investigation and high-level policy development. Carolyn is a part time Commissioner with the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

*** Indicates newly appointed members.**

http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/newsroom/Ministerial%20Media%20releases/070610_workcover_new_board_directors.pdf

Victorian WorkSafe Board

This Board has the same number of members, with similar qualifications. Details are at;

http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/wsinternet/WorkSafe/SiteTools/About+WorkSafe/About+WorkSafe/Board/D_Board

WA: Toxic Fumes Force Evacuation

Toxic fumes have caused the evacuation of a factory and nearby buildings, and the closure of roads, in a light industrial area in Perth's north. The carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrogen chloride fumes were caused by a chemical reaction at the David Moss plastic and rubber pipe factory on Turnbull Road, Neerabup on June 5. Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) crews evacuated the factory and nearby buildings, and closed roads into the area while they monitored the fumes. No one was reported injured but nearby residents were urged to stay indoors, close all windows and turn off air conditioners as the toxic plume blew west. They were also asked to stay away from the Neerabup light industrial area and see a doctor if they experience any unusual nose, throat or eye irritations. ChemCentre and the Department of Environment and Conservation's Pollution Response Unit were conducting air monitoring and analysis. FESA said the area was likely to remain closed for much of today.

Source: http://www.heraldsun

Associate Dies from Burns in US Laboratory

A 23-year-old female research associate died from burn injuries sustained in a research laboratory fire. The victim was using a syringe and needle to extract a pyrophoric chemical (t-butyl lithium) from a bottle. The plunger came out of the syringe barrel and the t-butyl lithium ignited on contact with room air. The chemical splashed onto the victim's clothing and set them on fire. She was not wearing a laboratory coat at the time of the incident. There was no written documentation that the victim had received formal training on the safe use of pyrophoric chemicals. The CA/FACE investigator determined that in order to prevent future incidents, employers with research laboratories should ensure that:

Laboratory personnel follow proper procedures when using pyrophoric chemicals.

Laboratory personnel wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) when working with pyrophoric chemicals.

Whenever possible, laboratory personnel consider the use of alternative chemicals that are not pyrophoric.

Read More At:

http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/face/stateface/ca/09ca001.html

Poisons Schedule - Revised Medicines and Chemicals Scheduling Arrangements

Revised scheduling arrangements for medicines and chemicals take effect on 1 July 2010. The Therapeutic Goods Administration, the Office of Health Protection, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority and the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme are working together to develop and implement these revised arrangements for medicines and chemicals scheduling. The changes include:

- **the National Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee (NDPSC) will be replaced by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) - or her delegate - as the decision maker for the scheduling of medicines and chemicals;**
- **two new expert advisory committees, the Advisory Committee on Medicines Scheduling and the Advisory Committee on Chemicals Scheduling, will be established to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary (or delegate) on medicines and chemicals scheduling decisions;**
- **a single Secretariat, supporting both Advisory Committees, will ensure ongoing consistency and cohesiveness of processes and decisions; and**
- **closer integration of the revised scheduling arrangements with existing Commonwealth evaluation and product registration schemes.**

Other planned changes include:

- **the Poisons Standard, at present named the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (SUSDP) will be renamed the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP), and**
- **100% cost recovery arrangements are being examined.**

The changes aim to improve the efficiency and timeliness of scheduling decisions, while maintaining the existing high level of scheduling uniformity across Australian states and territories. The revised scheduling arrangements have been endorsed by the Australian Health Ministers' Conference (AHMC) and the Council of Australian Governments.

Details are available at TGA and APVMA websites:

http://www.tga.gov.au/ndpsc/scheduling-revised.htm
http://www.apvma.gov.au/news_media/news/2010/2010-05-14_revised_scheduling.php