AIDGC Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

February 2013

Welcome to our new Associate Members

Margaret Ewings
Queensland

Angelo Di Giunta
N.S.W.

Hendrik Tait
Queensland

Eight Injured after Chemical Explosion

Emergency crews rushed to the factory in Laverton North after a container refrigeration failure saw close to 2500kg of organic peroxide overheat and ignite, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) said.
About 25 people working at the OneSteel factory had to be decontaminated after coming into contact with the chemical, which is hazardous to skin and eyes. "A large section of the container roof has bulged upwards due to the force of the explosion," the MFB said in a statement early on Saturday.
Paramedics assessed those affected at the scene and took eight people to hospital for observation of their blood pressure and breathing, an Ambulance Victoria spokesman said. None had suffered "life-threatening" injuries, with monitoring occurring as a precaution, he told reporters.
It took 37 firefighters three hours to control the area, the MFB said in a statement.
While most of the material in the container was consumed by the fire, the rest was being cleaned up by on-site workers and placed in another container under MFB supervision, it said.
OneSteel has been contacted for comment.
Source: Industry News

Contamination in Burnett River, Queensland

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service says there has been widespread chemical contamination of the Burnett River due to flooding. Inspection crews have been visiting farms in the North Burnett to identify and collect hazardous material washed away in floodwaters.
It includes chemicals and fuel from farms and much of it has washed across farmland. Inspector Ray Bott says it is hard to quantify the extent of the contamination. "We couldn't measure anything but from what I've seen going down the river, it was a lot of chemicals and materials and there were a lot of drums that we saw that have washed up so that sort shows the extent of materials in the river," he said. "There were pesticides so they can be toxic to the water animals and there were a number of oils as well."
Source: ABC News

Congratulations to our new full Members who have passed their competency assessments

Jorge Chaparro

And

Olivier Lazer

Man's Car Explodes at Gas Station

http://landing.newsinc.com/shared/video.html?vcid=24266678&freewheel=90051&sitesection=nydailynews

Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals

A new system of hazard classification and communication for workplace chemicals came into effect with the model work health and safety laws on 1 January 2012.

This system is called the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (the GHS). The GHS is an internationally agreed system designed to harmonise the diverse systems of classification and hazard communication currently in use throughout the world. Many countries including some of Australia's major trading partners have already adopted this system or are in the process of doing so.

Manufacturers and importers of hazardous chemicals will need to re-classify their products, re-label them and prepare new safety data sheets to meet the new requirements. These changes do not need to be done immediately. There will be a 5 year transitional period for moving to the new GHS-based system, which allows for manufacturers and importers to use either the new GHS system or the current classification and labeling system for workplace hazardous substances and dangerous goods. After 1 January 2017 all chemicals supplied for use must comply with the new requirements. These changes do not apply to requirements under the ADG Code for the transport of dangerous goods.

For more information about these changes visit the hazardous chemicals pages on the Safe Work Australia website:
http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/whs-information/hazardous-chemicals/pages/hazardous-chemicals-other-substances

AIDGC associate member Richard Greenwood and Senior Consultant from Noel Arnold and Associates, is speaking at a Pre Conference Seminar for HAZMAT 2013 in Sydney on: GHS and WHS – A Practical Guide to Hazardous Chemicals. For Hazmat brochure goto:
http://www.fpaa.com.au/media/65089/hz13_rego_brochure_sml.pdf

Read More:

Changes to Hazardous Chemicals – Coming Ready or Not

http://www.noel-arnold.com.au/content/index.php?mact=News,cntnt01,detail,0&cntnt01articleid=316&cntnt01origid=15&cntnt01returnid=69

Health and Safety Fact Sheet on GHS from Queensland Government

http://education.qld.gov.au/health/pdfs/healthsafety/intro-to-ghs-factsheet.pdf

Better Regulation of Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals in Australia

The Australian Government has identified the regulation of agricultural and veterinary chemicals as an important area of reform. In July 2010 a first tranche of Australian Government Better Regulation Reforms took effect.

A second tranche of reforms is now being progressed. In September 2012 the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) released a revised draft of the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 (external site) together with explanatory documents and details of proposed regulations. The revised Bill includes amendments to address issues raised during the previous round consultation (external site) on legislative reform undertaken by DAFF in February 2012.

Consultation on the revised Bill concluded on 22 October 2012.

Submissions to this latest round of consultation are available on the DAFF website:

http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/ag-vet-chemicals/better-regulation-of-ag-vet-chemicals/revised-draft-legislation

Two Ashdod Refinery Employees Killed after Inhaling Poisonous Gas - Israel

Two refinery workers died after inhaling poisonous gas at the Ashdod plant where they worked. Police have stated that the deaths were the results of a workplace accident.

The two victims, ages 25 and 45, were working a night shift at the plant, which belongs to the Paz Oil Company, and were found by some of their colleagues early the next morning. The gas they accidentally inhaled can cause a loss of sensation and consciousness, eventually leading to death.

"It an unfortunate and tragic occurrence," Paz stated in response to accident. "The two workers, one of whom was very experienced and worked many years in the refinery, came to fix a problem the facility. For a reason that isn't clear, they opened one valve before closing another one, releasing the gas that caused their death."

Heading for the Ashdod refinery. Photo by Limor Edrey

Knesset member and outgoing co-chairman of the Knesset Joint Committee on Environment and Health Dov Khenin (Hadash) responded to the accident by calling for tougher industrial safety standards and enforcement. "A situation in which workplace accidents with hazardous materials becomes a regular occurrence that costs human lives, again and again cannot be tolerated," said Khenin. "The standards must be changed, to strengthen enforcement and punish those responsible for these accidents."

About two years ago there was a workplace accident at the refinery in Haifa that led to the death of three workers. The cause of the accident was also a gas leak. Source: Haaretz

Deep Panuke Fire: Automatic Fire Suppression System Failed to Work

Government regulators say bad weather has kept investigators away from a Nova Scotia offshore platform where fire broke out Saturday and the automated fire suppression system failed.

Forty-six of the 115 people aboard the Deep Panuke natural gas production platform were flown back to shore as a precautionary measure.

Calgary-based Encana and SBM Offshore — the Dutch company it hired to build, commission and operate the natural gas platform — are responsible for investigating the fire. The fire was contained to an electrical panel.

Both companies have experts on the platform, located about 250 kilometers southeast of Halifax on the Scotian Shelf.

Although the fire suppression system failed, crew were able to extinguish the fire. No one was hurt.

The companies looking into the fire — Encana and SBM — are currently locked in a court battle, blaming each other for Deep Panuke's lengthy production delays.

The natural gas production facility is more than two years late and is hundreds of millions of dollars over the original forecast. The platform was in the process of final commissioning when the fire broke out.

The platform's delay has already been partially blamed for a supply shortage that saw prices triple in Nova Scotia last month.

Source: CBC News – Nova Scotia, Paul Withers

Fire and Explosion at Air Liquide Texas

Officials at Air Liquide Industrial Services in La Porte that one person was injured and one unaccounted for after an explosion and fire at their facility.

Air Liquide mixes gases such as oxygen and nitrogen for industrial applications according to Michael Rosen, VP of public affairs for Air Liquide. Rosen said that air tests determined that no harmful chemicals were released into the air except for smoke. Rosen initially said that the fire possibly started in the lab area of the complex which also has a loading dock and an administration area.

Photo: Houston and Texas News

Pasadena called for a Level 3 shelter-in-place, which means that an incident is not yet under control and protective action may be necessary for surrounding areas.

The Houston based plant holds a mixture of industrial gases like nitrogen and hydrogen which are used in the processing of food and beverages and electronics.

Source: www.yourhoustonnews.com

Watch the Video:

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/9860652/Explosion-blows-hole-in-Texas-gas-plant.html

CSB Releases Draft Final Report on Carbide Industries Explosion that Killed Two in Louisville, Kentucky in 2011

Photo: insiderlouisville.com

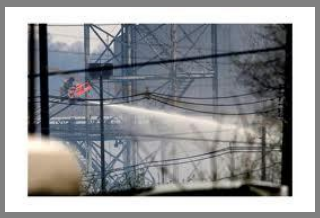

Photo: www.firehouse.com

A large explosion at Carbide Industries that killed two workers and injured two others on March 21, 2011, resulted from a failure by the company to investigate similar but smaller explosive incidents over many years while deferring crucial maintenance of the large electric arc furnace that blew up, according to a U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) draft final report.

The deaths and injuries likely resulted when water leaked into the electric arc furnace causing an over-pressure event, ejecting furnace contents heated to approximately 3800 degrees Fahrenheit. Along with molten calcium carbide, the furnace spewed powdered debris and hot gases, which blew through the double-pane reinforced glass window of the furnace control room that was located just 12 feet from open vents atop the furnace. The two workers inside died within 24 hours from severe burn injuries.

CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "This accident is literally a case study into the tragic, predictable consequences of running equipment to failure even when repeated safety incidents over many years warn of impending failure. When control room windows blew out during previous furnace incidents, the company merely reinforced them, rather than taking the safe course and moving the control room farther from the furnace and investigating why the smaller furnace overpressure events were happening in the first place. It is what we call a 'normalization of deviance,' in which abnormal events become acceptable in everyday operations."

The facility, located by the Ohio River in the "Rubbertown" section of western Louisville, supplies calcium carbide primarily to the iron and steel industry and to acetylene producers. It employs about 160 workers in operations, maintenance, and administration.

The investigation report proposed two scenarios for the development of cooling water leaks that likely resulted in the overpressure and explosion. In one scenario, fouling – or the accumulation of solids inside the hollow chamber where water flows – resulted in localized overheating, eventually causing sections of the cover to sag and crack.

Another possible cause of the leaks could have been the sudden eruption of hot liquid from the furnace, which operators called a "boil-up." Hot liquids contact the underside of the furnace cover, eroding its ceramic lining, and eventually melting holes through which water leaks. Post-incident examination revealed recurring water leaks in multiple zones of the furnace cover. Rather than replacing the furnace cover, the company directed workers to attempt repairs.

The investigation found that the company would inject a mixture of oats and commercially available "boiler solder" into the cooling water, in an effort to plug the leaks and keep the aging cover in operation.

Corporate Members

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

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Water leaks into the furnace interfere with the steady introduction of lime and coke raw materials, through an effect known as "bridging" or "arching," the report noted. In a carbide-producing electric arc furnace, this can result in an undesirable and hazardous side reaction between calcium carbide and lime, which produces gas much more rapidly that the normal reaction to produce calcium carbide itself. Industry literature described the phenomenon as early as 1965, and an independent CSB analysis confirmed that operating conditions at Carbide on the day of the incident could have resulted in this effect, causing hot materials to be expelled from the furnace.

CSB lead investigator Johnnie Banks said, "One of our key findings was that Carbide Industries issued 26 work orders to repair water leaks on the furnace cover in the five months prior to the March 2011 incident. It was distressing to find that the company nonetheless continued operating the furnace despite the hazard from on-going water leaks. We also found that the company could have prevented this incident had it voluntarily applied elements of a process safety management program, such as hazard analysis, incident investigation, and mechanical integrity". Investigator Banks noted that Carbide was not required to follow the OSHA Process Safety Management standard, since the company did not use threshold amounts of covered hazardous chemicals.

The report notes that Carbide continued operating the furnace even though it planned to replace the furnace cover in May 2011. The accident occurred in March of that year.

The investigation found that National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) industry codes governing the safe operation of potentially hazardous Class A furnaces, such as the one at Carbide, do not have specific requirements for appropriate safety devices, interlocks, and safe distances between the furnaces and occupied work areas. The draft report recommended that the NFPA develop a national standard requiring companies to provide adequate safety instrumentation and controls to prevent explosions and overpressure events, mechanical integrity and inspection programs, and a documented siting analysis to ensure that control rooms and other occupied areas are adequately protected.

Carbide Industries was urged to modify the design and procedures for the electric arc furnace and related structures, including the control room, to comply with the standard the NFPA was recommended to develop, and to implement a mechanical integrity program for the electric arc furnace and cover, including preventive maintenance based on periodic inspections, and timely replacement of the furnace cover. At a minimum, the CSB said, the mechanical integrity program should include leak detection and repair and monitoring refractory lining wear.

Read C.S.B. Report:
http://www.csb.gov/assets/news/document/Final_Report_small.pdf

Fatal Gas Leak at Samsung Chip Plant

Government investigators survey the impact of a hydrogen fluoride leak. Yonhap News/YNA/Newscom

A maintenance contractor called out to fix a hydrofluoric acid leak at a Samsung plant has died after being taken to hospital, according to Korean media. Four others were injured by the lethal gas but have reportedly been discharged by doctors. The factory in question is located within South Korea, which isn't known for the sort of lax safety standards that plague workers in China, but *AsiaE* reports the accident will nevertheless be investigated to find out if any laws were breached in the way the leak was handled, and if the killed contractor was wearing the right protective gear. It's worth remembering that even state-of-the-art installations can be prone to accidents -- in 2011, for example, seven American workers were injured in an explosion at Intel's semiconductor factory in Arizona. **Source: AsiaE, Sharif Sakr**

Alert over South Korea Toxic Leaks Hydrogen Fluoride Accidents

Hydrofluoric acid is commonly used by the electronics industry to etch patterns into silicon chips, and as South Korea has become one of the world's leading electronics exporters in recent years, annual consumption of HF has risen sharply. According to the Ministry of Environment, 26 businesses each handled around 10 tonnes of HF in 2001; by 2010, the number of these large-scale handlers had almost tripled, and in 2011, 545 companies were registered as producers or distributors of the gas

By mid-December, the chill winter winds had stripped South Korea's trees bare. But around the city of Gumi, about 280 kilometres south of Seoul, blighted branches still bore a shroud of brown, withered leaves — reminders of the chemical accident that shook the region some three months earlier. At the edges of arable fields, red placards waved in the breeze: "Contaminated by the hydrofluoric acid leak," they warned. "Not edible." On 27 September 2012, about eight tonnes of highly toxic hydrogen fluoride (HF) gas, which dissolves in the moisture in air to form droplets of corrosive hydrofluoric acid, burst from the Hube Global chemical plant in Gumi. The leak killed five workers and injured at least 18 others, including plant employees and emergency personnel. Exposure to HF can trigger an irregular heartbeat and cause fluid build-up in the lungs, and the long-term health effects include chronic lung disease. The government has said that it will pay about 36.4 billion won (US$33.4 million) in compensation to citizens and local businesses. This may sound like a freak accident — but it was not. On 15 January, about 2,500 litres of hydrofluoric acid escaped at a factory in Cheongju, injuring one person. And on 28 January, a worker died during a hydrofluoric acid leak at a Samsung Electronics computer-chip plant in Hwaseong. In the wake of the incidents, experts are raising questions about safety in the country's research-intensive chemical and microelectronics industries, and the government is investigating what went wrong. "South Korea tends to focus on resolving accidents only when death occurs, but action to prevent such accidents is still severely lacking," says Lim Hyun-Sul, a researcher in preventive medicine at Dongguk University in Gyeongju. Lim, who has been treating patients for HF exposure since the 1990s, says that preparation is key. "Protocols must be prepared thoroughly in advance, including education of factory workers, firefighters, medical doctors and public servants about the risks of toxic chemicals."

Source: www.nature.com

An MoU outlining working arrangements has been signed by DMP and the Radiological Council

Joint Approach by W.A. DMP and the Radiological Council to Radiation Regulation and Safety for Mining Operations

Radiation safety for Western Australian mining operations is at the forefront of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) and the Radiological Council. DMP Director General Richard Sellers and Radiological Council Chairman Dr Andrew Robertson signed off on the MoU on 22 January 2013.

The MoU outlines working arrangements between the department and the Radiological Council ahead of the start of uranium mining operations in WA. Mr. Sellers said the MoU clarifies administrative arrangements, and roles and responsibilities regarding regulation of the industry. "This is an important step on the road to the commencement of uranium mining in this State," Mr. Sellers said. "Through this MoU we seek to minimise potential overlap and clarify DMP's and the Radiological Council's regulatory responsibilities."

While DMP is responsible for regulating the mining and processing of radioactive materials, there are some matters which require the approval of both agencies. Mine sites are also required to comply with the overarching requirements of the Radiation Safety Act 1975 and any directions imposed by the Radiological Council.

The Radiological Council is responsible for regulating the use, storage and transportation of radioactive materials and the possession and use of other radiation producing devices and sources.

Read the MOU: http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/documents/MOU_Radiation_Safety.pdf

Judge Approves BP Oil Spill Plea Deal

A US judge has approved a $A4.34 billion deal in which BP pleaded guilty to criminal charges from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill - but the British energy giant's legal woes are far from over. BP is set to return to the Louisiana courthouse on February 25 for a mammoth trial consolidating scores of remaining lawsuits stemming from the worst environmental disaster to strike the United States. It must also still resolve a civil case on environmental fines which could amount to as much as $US18 billion if gross negligence is found. It also remains on the hook for billions in economic damages, including the cost of environmental rehabilitation.

The blowout on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon drilling rig on April 20, 2010 killed 11 people and unleashed some 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf, blackening beaches in five states and crippling the region's tourism and fishing industries.

Judge Carl Barbier - an expert in maritime law charged with overseeing the bulk of the cases - has left the door open to some shared liability in key pre-trial rulings. Several government probes have already castigated BP, Transocean and Halliburton - which was responsible for the well's faulty cement job - for cutting corners and missing crucial warning signs

Source: The Austalian, Business Wall Street Journal

Diagram:
www.emts.com.au

WA Warning on Dangerous Goods Transport

An ongoing Western Australia Police operation backed by the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) in the Wheatbelt District has resulted in a warning to the transport and logistics industry on dangerous goods compliance.

Police gave details of two incidents.

Last Friday, 450 litres of chlorine gas was discovered in a load of other goods after a truck was pulled over in Cunderdin. "The driver was not carrying correct documentation or personal protective equipment and the vehicle was not displaying dangerous goods placards," a spokesman says. "In that case, both the driver and the company will be summoned to court for several offences." The truck had been "grounded" until arrangements could be made for it to be secured in a holding yard.

On Saturday, near Meckering, a truck was directed on to the Northam roadtrain assembly area for an inspection. Segregation issues with dangerous goods also arose. The trailer was sealed and the driver instructed to take it to the company's Perth depot for inspection by DMP officers.

"All drivers of vehicle carrying dangerous goods are reminded of their obligations under legislation and that heavy penalties apply for breaches," the spokesman says. "The risk to the public and emergency service personnel, in the event of a crash, fire or other incident involving a vehicle carrying dangerous goods, is enormous and it is vital that attending services have accurate information on the materials being carried."

It is understood the focus on dangerous goods has been underway for about two months.

Source: Supply Chain Review

Transport of Radioactive Material

Australian Government Advisory Circular Goto:
http://www.casa.gov.au/wcmswr/_assets/main/rules/1998casr/092/092c07.pdf

54th IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations

This edition of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations incorporates all amendments made by the Dangerous Goods Board and includes changes to the 2013–2014 edition of the ICAO Technical Instructions.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO THE 54TH EDITION (2013)

The following list is intended to assist the user to identify the main changes introduced in this edition and must not be considered an exhaustive listing. The changes have been prefaced by the section or subsection in which the change occurs.

Goto:
http://www.dgtraining.com/Home/DGR54-Significant-Changes.pdf

In Cooperation with Cal/OSHA, CSB Releases Technical Report on Chevron 2012 Pipe Rupture and Fire

Photo: www.bayareabikeinjuryblog.com

Photo: online.wsj.com

Photo: redeemedworld.org

Photo: www.ktvu.com

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) and the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) today released a technical evaluation report on piping samples taken from the Chevron Refinery in Richmond, California, where a hydrocarbon release and massive fire occurred on August 6, 2012. Cal/OSHA participated in this technical evaluation as part of its enforcement investigation.

The report, prepared by Anamet, Inc., a metallurgical laboratory in Hayward, California, concludes that the 8-inch steel pipe, from a section designated as 4-sidecut which was installed in 1976, ruptured due to severe sulfidation corrosion, and that tested pipe samples showed a very low concentration of corrosion-inhibiting silicon.

CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "The report, resulting from a cooperative effort between the CSB, Cal/OSHA, the United Steelworkers (USW), and Chevron provides a solid, technical basis for the firm conclusion that the pipe corroded over time from sulfidation corrosion. We hope this report receives widespread attention throughout the petrochemical industry as a precaution to all refiners to carefully examine potential corrosion mechanisms and use the safest possible materials of construction to avoid failures. Refineries and other plants must incorporate strong mechanical integrity and inherently safer strategies in their process safety management programs."

The CSB determined that nineteen Chevron employees were engulfed in a vapour cloud formed by the hydrocarbon release. Eighteen employees escaped before the fire started and one employee escaped without injury after the fire ensued. The incident resulted in six minor injuries. Production at the crude unit has been suspended since the accident. More than 15,000 residents in the surrounding area sought treatment at area medical facilities as a result of the release and fire.

The incident occurred when a combustible hydrocarbon liquid known as "gas oil" leaked from an 8-inch pipe connected to an atmospheric crude oil distillation column in the refinery's crude unit. Workers initially noted the leak and were in the process of attempting to diagnose the source of the leak in the still-operating crude unit when the pipe ruptured catastrophically. Due to the high temperature, in excess of 600 degrees Fahrenheit, and physical properties of the material in the equipment, the gas-oil immediately formed a large hydrocarbon vapour cloud.

The report cites wall thinning due to sulfidation corrosion as the cause of the piping failure. In crude oil distillation, naturally occurring sulfur and sulfur compounds are available to react with steel components, particularly plain carbon steels. Corrosion rates vary according to the sulfur content of the oil being processed, temperature, and other factors, including silicon content and other materials in steel pipe.

Read the Report:

http://www.csb.gov/assets/document/CSB_Final_Report_5004_7920.pdf

Please email me robhogan@tpg.com.au if you have any interesting articles, noticed any opinions or newspaper pars, or any material or photographs that could contribute to entertaining and informing our Members

SAI Global Safe Work Method Statements: Editable Templates

A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) can help organizations understand potential risks and risk controls to enhance workplace safety, as well as provide useful ways to train your workers in the safe use of an item of equipment or work activity during potentially dangerous construction work.

The Model Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 require that a written SWMS is produced for work which is determined to be High-risk Construction Work (as defined within s291 of the WHS Regulations 2011).

A Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) must ensure that a SWMS is prepared for all High-risk construction work before work is commenced.

Covering a wide range of potentially dangerous tasks and activities, the fully editable SWMS templates:

- **Are in Word format and can be easily tailored to meet the specific requirements of construction sites.**
- **May save your organization time and effort drafting various OH&S procedures for different applications.**
- **Have been developed by Safety Culture, and are based on industry expertise and latest OH&S good practice for high-risk construction work.**
- **Detail the potential risks which may arise from work activity, how those risks may be controlled, and outline how those controls can be put in place and maintained.**

There are more than 340 SWMS publications available. To help you find the SWMS applicable to you, you can browse the categories on the left-hand side of the following link:
http://infostore.saiglobal.com/store/results2.aspx?searchType=simple&publisher=all&keyword=safe%20work%20method%20statements&utm_campaign=BAP_NEWS_FEB13_WP&utm_source=BAP&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&et_jobid=15601848&sf_id=robhogan@tpg.com.au

Remember, as an AIDGC Member you are eligible for discounted Standards.
Goto the Members Only Pages on the AIDGC website for details.

All contributions gratefully received. This month my thanks to Scott Young and Don Johnston

USFA Coffee Break Training: Hazardous Materials: Aboveground Flammable and Combustible Liquid Tank Emergency Venting — Part 3: Venting Requirements

The liquid contents inside an aboveground flammable or liquid storage tank emit vapours. It is vapour rather than the liquid that ignites when mixed in certain proportions with air in the presence of an ignition source. Vapour pressure is the pressure exerted by vapour above the surface of a liquid in a closed container. It is caused by evaporation and is stabilized by confinement in a closed container to a pressure characteristic of a specific liquid. Vapour pressures of flammable liquids are an important consideration in fire prevention. They give the relative speed of evaporation: the higher the vapour pressure, the greater the evaporation rate and the more vapour escape potential. The vapour pressure of a substance depends upon the temperature: as the vapours are heated, the pressure increases.

Read More: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cb_fp_2013_3.pdf

Pemex Blast Caused by Methane Gas?

Investigators are still working to determine where the gas came from, and whether or not there was anyone to blame. The reasons for ruling out the use of explosives include the fact that there was no crater at the site of the blast, the steel girders weren't fractured, and the bodies weren't dismembered.

A blast that ripped through an office block at the headquarters of Mexican state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, killing at least 37 people, was caused by an accumulation of gas, possibly methane, according to the preliminary results of the investigation, Mexican Attorney General Jesus Murillo said late Monday.

Speaking at a televised news conference, Mr. Murillo said there were no signs that last Thursday's explosion, which tore through several lower floors of a building next to Pemex's 48-story corporate tower in Mexico City, was caused by artificial explosives.

However, he stopped short of declaring the explosion an accident, and said the findings are still preliminary, adding that the source of the gas has yet to be determined.

Investigators are still working to determine where the gas came from, and whether or not there was anyone to blame.

The reasons for ruling out the use of explosives include the fact that there was no crater at the site of the blast, the steel girders weren't fractured, and the bodies of the victims weren't dismembered, he said.

"There are no traces of explosives in the affected zone."

Source: HydroCarbon Processing, Anthony Harrup, Laurence Iliff

Explosion Caused by Accidental Ignition of Flammable Vapours – U.S.A.

Photo: www.scoop.it

The Massachusetts State Police bomb squad was called to a Stoneham parking lot Sunday afternoon after a car exploded. The owner of the 2012 Honda Civic said that she was about 30 yards away from the car when she popped the trunk with her remote and the car exploded. The car was destroyed but the woman, a nurse from Winchester Hospital, was not hurt. The bomb squad determined the cause of the blast was an accidental vapor explosion. Investigators said the use of the car's remote unlocking device ignited vapors from plumber's equipment inside the vehicle.

The boyfriend of the car owner, who works for a HVAC company, had welding equipment inside the car. Investigators believe vapors ignited from acetylene tanks in the truck. It is believed there may have been a leak from that tank. Source: http://www.wcvb.com

Balloon Plant Explosion - Phillipines

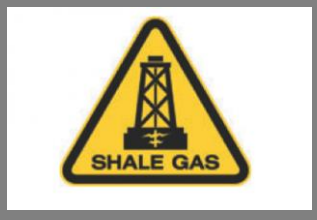
Two workers of an establishment selling balloons were killed when a steel cylinder full of helium gas exploded in their workshop in a residential area.

The blast, which triggered panic, was heard as far as the periphery of the Notre Dame University campus some three blocks away. The blast felled a coconut tree and damaged a house nearby.

Most suppliers of decorative balloons in Central Mindanao now use helium instead of oxygen, which is more expensive.

Source: philSTAR.com, John Unson

Shale Gas Resource Page: AIChE – American Institute of Chemical Engineers

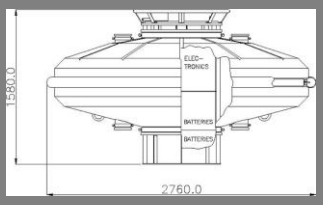


Shale gas remains in the news as consideration is given to opening new areas for development, and as the film, Promised Land, raise questions about its business and social, as well as its environmental, impacts. Development of shale gas resources poses complex challenges and opportunities. Finding the right solutions to best use shale gas to meet our energy needs, while protecting the environment and growing the economy, requires chemical engineering expertise.

To help AIChE members better understand and better communicate about shale gas, the Public Affairs & Information Committee has helped curate valuable shale gas resources. These resources offer technically sound information drawn from AIChE publications, web forums and webinars, conference proceedings and Congressional briefings. The special supplement on Shale Gas from the August 2012 issue of CEP is a great starting place.

Goto: http://www.aiche.org/cei/topics/shale-gas

Fatal Injury during the Recovery and Maintenance of a Fugro Oceanor Wavescan Buoy



On the 18th October 2012 one of our staff was fatally injured during the recovery and maintenance of a Fugro OCEANOR Wavescan buoy offshore Malaysia. This summary outlines the course of events leading to the accident, as well as the technical findings of the subsequent investigations.

The buoy in question was deployed in August 2010, and visited for cleaning in November 2010. It was reported that the buoy was soiled with bird droppings. At some point after this, the maintenance program for the buoy was suspended.

The program was re-established in 2012, and the accident took place on the initial maintenance cruise. After retrieval onto the service vessel, the buoy was cleaned, and the task of opening the instrument compartment started. This compartment also holds the lead-acid battery packs of the buoy. Access to the instruments is gained by removing a circular lid which is secured by 16 bolts. The removal of the bolts had been completed, except for the last bolt which proved to be seized.

The decision was made to free this bolt using an angle grinder. Only moments after applying the grinder, an explosion took place which resulted in the lid blowing open and the instrument modules and their mounting plate being projected outwards with great force. These items struck our employee, thus causing the fatal injuries.

What Went Wrong?

Our initial investigation concluded that the explosion was caused by sparks from the grinder igniting an explosive mixture of hydrogen and oxygen which had built up inside the compartment. The hydrogen build-up was assumed to stem from the lead-acid batteries.

We emphasize that the user manuals for all Fugro OCEANOR buoys already state that the buoys have to be purged before opening the lid to the instrument compartment. The buoys incorporate valves allowing this procedure. In the present case the procedure was not followed.

Please note that the Wavescan buoy is still safe for use provided the maintenance and handling procedures are followed correctly.

Source: This safety alert was issued by Fugro for further distribution.

The original report can be downloaded here:

http://info.ogp.org.uk/Safety/SafetyAlerts/downloads/247/FOASsafetyalert_GMO_v4_OGP.pdf

NICNAS Chemical Gazette

The latest issue, February 2013, is now available at:

http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/pdf/2013feb_whole.pdf

Orica leak not behind sickness: EPA

The Environmental Protection Agency has rejected claims that a leak at Orica's Botany plant was behind contaminated water and local residents' illness.

Despite Orica not notifying the EPA that it had inadvertently leaked 640 litres from its treatment plant on the same day locals complained of nausea and dizziness caused by contaminated water, the EPA says the two are not linked. "There was no environmental harm from the waste water treatment plant leak," an EPA spokesperson said.

EPA chief environmental regulator Mark Gifford explained that the explosives manufacturer was under no obligation to report the leak. "It was totally contained on site in a facility designed for that purpose and did not pose a potential or actual threat to the environment," Gifford said.

A Sydney Water spokesperson stated that the contamination was actually caused by bitumen entering the water pipe system. "The fact is our system is a pressurized system, which means groundwater can't seep into it and our pipes are nowhere near the pipes that Orica have," the spokeswoman said. "The test results confirmed concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and bitumen-lined pipes are a known source of PAH contamination in water."

Source: Australian Mining, Cole Latimer

WA Company Fined over Drum Explosion

A Kwinana company has been fined a total of $50,000 over an incident in which an empty drum exploded, injuring an employee, and for failing to report the injury.

Tox Free (Kwinana) Pty Ltd pleaded guilty to failing to provide and maintain a safe work environment, and was fined $45,000 in the Rockingham Magistrates Court on Thursday. In addition, the company was fined $5000 for failing to report this incident.

Tox Free operates a waste management facility at Kwinana Beach at which industrial waste is treated or transferred after being collected from clients. Part of that waste is in the form of 205-litre (44-gallon) metal drums, some of which have contained flammable, combustible or explosive substances.

As at March 2010, it was a regular practice at the workplace to decant any free liquid from these drums, remove the lids and fill them with smaller items of scrap metal before crushing them as part of the metal recycling process.

On March 10, 2010, a plant operator at the facility was instructed to have a number of metal drums filled with scrap metal for crushing. None of the drums had removable lids, so the plant operator was instructed to cut triangular holes in the lids with an angle grinder.

He had safely cut holes in four of the drum lids, but when he cut into the fifth lid, the contents of the drum – and consequently the drum itself – exploded.

Source and Photo: Safetowork

Burma Police use Incendiary Weapons

Image: http://rjneeley.wordpress.com

Activists in Burma want action against officials who used incendiary weapons against peaceful protestors at a copper mine.

It is claimed police used shells containing white phosphorus to disperse protestors, causing serious burns to dozens of people including Buddhist monks, The Guardian reported.

Lawyers who investigated the clash at the Letpadaung copper mine in November, called for the president to step in and ensure the guilty were charged.

One hundred protesting Buddhist monks and a group of local villagers had set up protest camps near the mine in order to demand the project was halted.

Authorities have acknowledged using teargas and smoke grenades in the crackdown. Protestors say the mine, a joint-venture between a Chinese mining firm and a military owned holding company is causing environmental, social and health problems.

Source and Photo: The Australian

Further tests near GM Holden S.A.

Holden today announced ongoing progress in its environmental review, which was announced in November 2011, following the discovery of historical ground water contamination at a depth of 18 to 20 metres within its Elizabeth manufacturing site.

As part of Holden's responsibility to the environment and the local community, the company appointed an EPA-accredited site contamination auditor to manage the investigation which included conducting further tests north of the Elizabeth plant.

The most recent testing identified levels of TCE vapour in the soil at a depth of 1.5 – 2.0 metres below the ground in the area north of the Elizabeth plant. Further tests are required to determine the extent of the matter.

Holden is currently conducting additional testing at properties and is working closely with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Holden will keep employees, the local community and business partners informed of any further developments and has personally contacted residents in the area today to ensure they are aware of the situation.

Source:
http://media.gm.com/media/au/en/holden/news.detail.html/content/Pages/news/au/en/2012/Aug/0807_HoldenEnvironmentalUpdate.html

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has been advised by General Motors Holden Ltd (GMH) that additional crawl space testing of selected residential properties north of the Elizabeth South site will commence on Monday 4 February 2013. GMH doorknocked approximately 20 residential properties yesterday, and letterbox dropped a further 75 residents who were previously offered testing during August 2012.

The EPA continues to ensure that all on and off-site assessment work is undertaken by the consultant and is overseen by the independent auditor.

Source: EPA South Australia

U.S. EPA Makes Public Comprehensive Information on Use of Chemicals

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released the 2012 Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) information on more than 7,600 chemicals in commerce. The CDR database contains comprehensive use and exposure information on the most widely used chemicals in the United States.

Companies are now required to provide information on chemicals used in children's and other consumer products, along with reports on commercial applications and industrial uses of chemicals. For the first time ever, EPA also required companies to substantiate confidentiality claims in order to ensure that as much information as possible is made available to the public.

"The 2012 Chemical Data Reporting information will help EPA and others better assess chemicals, evaluate potential exposures and use, and expand efforts to encourage the use of safer chemicals," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "The CDR data also highlight the clear need for TSCA reform. Updating this critical law will ensure that EPA has access to the tools and resources it needs to quickly and effectively assess potentially harmful chemicals, and safeguard the health of families across the country."

The CDR rule, the source of this new data, was issued under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). The rule requires companies that manufacture or import chemicals to report manufacturing and import data every four years when site-specific production volume exceeds 25,000 lb. This report is for calendar year 2011. The EPA received reports on 7,674 chemicals, including 354 that were reported as used in children's products. 1,704 chemicals were reported as used in consumer products and 3,073 were used in commercial applications or products. The remaining chemicals reported were for industrial use only. The CDR information includes data on chemicals that are used in children's products such as toys, playground and sporting equipment, arts and crafts materials, and textiles and furniture.

Chemicals used in consumer products, particularly those intended for children, present potential for direct exposure to the public and are priorities for assessment by the agency. Although reporting on these chemicals is compulsory, currently there are no requirements under TSCA that existing chemicals be evaluated for safety.

Yet EPA has taken action and begun a process to ensure that chemicals used by the public on a daily basis are safe. The process identifies potential chemicals for near-term review and risk assessment under TSCA. In 2012, EPA released a work plan of 83 chemicals for further review as part of the agency's existing chemicals management program. From that list, seven chemicals were identified for risk assessment development in 2012 and 18 for assessment in 2013 and 2014. In January, 2013, EPA released for public comment and peer review an initial set of draft risk assessments of five chemicals for particular uses found in

common household products.
The 2012 CDR information will help EPA and others assess chemicals more quickly and encourage the use of safer chemicals. It is available at http://www.epa.gov/cdr
Users can download or search the database. In addition, users can tailor the search results to view information on specific uses of chemicals, such as those used in products intended for use with children.

U.S. Congress: Dust Explosion Legislation

On February 14, a group of Democrats in the US House of Representatives introduced legislation to protect workers from combustible dust. The new bill would compel the agency to issue interim protections within a year and set deadlines for finalizing a permanent rule.
The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) began the process of issuing regulations to address the hazard in 2009, but its progress has stalled.
"While OSHA has taken some limited steps to protect workers and property from combustible dust explosions, the widely recommended protections necessary to prevent these explosions are caught up in red tape and special interest objections," Rep. George Miller, the senior Democrat on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, said in a statement announcing the bill's introduction.
Standards set by the non-profit National Fire Protection Association have existed for decades, but are optional in many areas. Enforcement is often weak or nonexistent. The new bill would require OSHA to base much of its interim standard on these NFPA guidelines. It would mandate more worker training, a regime of cleaning and inspections to prevent dust buildups, and work procedures and equipment design to minimize explosion and fire risk.
The new bill would require OSHA to issue an interim standard within a year, then a proposed rule within another 18 months. The agency would then have to finalize the rule within the next three years.
The rule could affect a large number of businesses, and many industry groups have pushed back, arguing for exemptions or calling the measure unnecessary.
Source: HazardEx

Coal Mine Explosion Kills 17 in Russia

Photo: themoscowtimes.com

Seventeen miners have died and one is missing after an explosion at a coal mine in Russia.
A spokesman told Sky News a methane explosion was reported at mine.
Rescue teams are trying to reach any survivors at the Vorkutinskaya mine in Vorkuta, Komi region, around 1,160 miles northeast of Moscow.
259 miners were working underground at the time of the explosion, which took place at a depth of 800m.
Source: Australian Mining, Vicki Validakis

Mercedes-Benz Help Investigate Bus Fires

Mercedes-Benz have been called in to help the WA Government investigate a spate of fires on its gas-fuelled public transport buses.
The West Australian reports over 500 buses have been examined following an engine fire on Saturday, the second in two months.
In the latest accident the driver was able to activate an isolation valve to contain the fire, but passengers were forced to flee as the blaze engulfed the front of the vehicle. The accident prompted a swift response from the WA Government, with Transport Minister Troy Buswell ordering the introduction of a five point plan to maximize safety.
Vehicle manufacturer Mercedes-Benz has been invited to help with the investigation, which has so far been unable to pinpoint the exact cause of the fires.
Source: Safetowork, Andrew Duffy

Mayor Fired after Slow Response to December Chemical Leak in Shanxi

Environmental workers pour water treatment material into the Zhanghe river to purify the water in Yuecheng reservoir in the downstream city Handan, North China's Hebei province. The treatment involves pouring activated carbon - charcoal that has been treated with oxygen to open up millions of tiny pores between the carbon atoms – into the water system. [Photo/Xinhua]

Thirty-eight people have been held accountable for a chemical leak that contaminated a river in North China's Shanxi province in December, a working group responsible for addressing the incident said Wednesday.
An investigation by the working group showed that Tianji Coal Chemical Industry Group caused the serious contamination and the Changzhi city government should also be blamed for failing to respond quickly to the emergency and not informing the downstream areas of the imminent health threats.
Changzhi Mayor Zhang Bao was removed from his post. The director of the work safety department in the city, Yang Fujin, was also sacked. Seven other officials were disciplined, including a deputy mayor and the environmental protection chief in the city. Twenty-four corporate executives received warnings, or demotion and removal from their posts. Five people, including an environmental protection enforcer in the city, have been transferred to judicial authorities.
Some 8.8 metric tons of aniline leaked by Tianji Coal Chemical Industry Group entered the Zhuozhang River on Dec 31. The contamination affected drinking water supplies in downstream Handan, Hebei province, a city with a population of 1 million. Water in neighboring Henan province was also polluted.
A broken metal tube caused the leak. The working group's investigation found the tube's supplier was a company in Beijing unauthorized to produce such metal tubes.
Aniline, a derivative of benzene used in industries including rubber, dye and pigment processing, is a toxic chemical that is believed to cause liver and kidney damage.
Changzhi city did not file a report about the leak until Jan 5 to the Shanxi provincial environmental authority.
Further Information? January 2013 AIDGC Newsletter
Source: Li Yao in Beijing and Sun Ruisheng in Taiyuan (China Daily)

Call to Change Policies to Class some Plastics as Hazardous

Outdated policies for managing plastic waste should be changed to try and prevent there being another 33 billion tonnes of plastic on Earth by 2050, scientists say.

That's the equivalent of a conga-line of about 2.75 billion rubbish trucks, which would wrap around the planet about 800 times, says a comment piece in the journal *Nature*.

Chelsea Rochman, from University of California, and Mark Anthony Browne from the National Centre for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, in California, say labeling some plastics as hazardous could reduce waste and threats to health and wildlife.

They say plastics should no longer be classified as solid waste in Australia, the US, Europe and Japan because doing so means they are treated the same way as food scraps.

"We believe that if countries classified the most harmful plastics as hazardous, their environmental agencies would have the power to restore affected habitats and prevent more dangerous debris from accumulating," they write.

The article says 280 million tonnes of plastic were produced around the world in 2012 and less than half went to landfill or was recycled.

Of the remaining 150 million tonnes some may still be in use, but the rest litters continents and oceans.

Their article says that if current rates of consumption continue the planet will hold another 33 billion tonnes of plastic by 2050.

Source: Industry News

NSW Postal Worker Burned by Acid

A POSTAL worker is being treated for burns to his hands after a parcel containing a highly acidic liquid broke open at a post office on Sydney's north shore.

Several other Australia Post staff were taken to Royal North Shore Hospital as a precaution after the incident at a sorting office on Rodborough Road, in Frenchs Forest on Monday morning.

Fire and Rescue NSW Superintendent Tom Cooper said the post satchel containing the non-flammable liquid weighed 3kg and leaked after being dropped at about 8am (AEDT).

The liquid has been sent to a laboratory for analysis and an investigation is underway to determine its origin.

"It was highly acidic substance and we're not sure if it was maliciously posted or whether it was just an accident," Supt Cooper told AAP.

Source: The Australian, News

A butcher stall at a market in Huaibei, east China's Anhui province on June 20. Illegal use of 'lean meat powder,' a banned drug in animal feed, has become widespread in China. Lean meat powder inhibits the growth of fat in farm animals, thus making the meat taste better, but poisonous to humans. (STR/AFP/Getty Images)

Test Kit for Toxic Foods on Sale in China

Chinese who are tired of unremitting food scandals, and fearful that the next milk or meat purchased might have unknown industrial chemicals in it, now have a new option: an at-home testing kit which can determine if their food is toxic.

The kit was developed at Tianjin University of Science and Technology in northern China by researchers, reported the state-run Xinhua News Agency. It gives a result in a few minutes.

The kit has not yet been placed on the Chinese market, but is expected to be sold in the near future and will help consumers "identify food products contaminated with pathogenic bacteria and excessive drug residues," the news agency said in a report this week.

The kit consists of an indicator paper that changes colour to look for more 60 chemicals in food, including harmful substances, the agency said. It predicted that the kit will likely be in high demand.

Over the past several years there have been numerous reports of drugs, industrial chemicals, and other contaminants entering anything from milk products to chickens to watermelons.

There were reports of contaminated bean sprouts, milk containing alkaline cleaning chemicals, aluminium-tainted dumplings, chemical soaked duck that was sold as mutton, and meat that contained excessive amounts of clenbuterol, a fat-burning chemical that can be carcinogenic.

In another well-publicized example, chicken sold by fast food chain KFC were fed toxic chemicals that killed the flies buzzing around them.

One of the major instances of tainted food products in China came to light in 2008, when a massive scandal broke involving melamine-contaminated baby formula that sickened 300,000 children and people and left six infants dead.

Tianjin Professor Wang Shuo noted that food safety testing usually requires complicated machinery and laboratory procedures, meaning that the process is likely expensive and lengthy, reported Xinhua.

He said that his team acquired 13 national patents for the testing kit and that they're looking to conduct future research to lower the production cost.

Source: Jack Phillips, Epoch Times

Chemical Tablet Find: Sydney Fire Station on High Alert

A container full of chemical tablets has sparked an alert at a fire station on Sydney's northern beaches - an exclusion zone was set up around Mona Vale fire station after officers found the canister of aluminium sulphide tablets.

A member of the public is thought to have dumped the canister at the fire station on Sunday night or early on Monday morning, while the building was unattended. It was made safe and taken away for analysis, a Fire and Rescue NSW spokesman said. Source: AAP

Photo: www.smh.com.au

Photo: mobile.english.rfi.fr

French Rotten Egg Stench Invades England

The stench of rotten eggs has wafted across Paris and northern France, even reaching across the sea to England, after a gas leak that authorities said was very smelly but entirely harmless.

Headaches, sore throats and nausea were nevertheless among the complaints listed in calls made overnight to emergency lines in Paris by more than 10,000 people worried by the stink that had invaded their streets and homes.

The leak began early Monday (local time) at a plant run by Lubrizol, a firm that is part of billionaire US investor Warren Buffett's empire, and within a day its odour had reached millions of people across northern France.

Winds carried the invisible gas around 100 kilometres down the densely populated Seine river valley to Paris, and later northwards over the Channel and into England, where it even reached as far as south London.

'Not toxic'

The offending odour came from a gas called mercaptan, which, among other uses, is added to municipal gas because its sulphurous smell alerts people to gas leaks.

The Lubrizol plant, which makes additives for industrial lubricants and paint, shut down production as workers battled to plug the leak.

Despite the official insistence that there was no danger, French social media were awash with people in the affected regions complaining of headaches and nausea from a gas that smells like "rotten eggs".

Source: ABC NEWS

U.N Sub-Committee: DGAG Report on the Transport and Packaging of Dangerous Goods

http://www.dgac.org/sites/dgac.cms.memberfuse.com/dgac/files/2013_eblasts/Dec_2012_Report_-_Andy.pdf

Major fire at Chemical Units in India

Major fire broke out in two different chemical manufacturing units at Jhagadia and Ankleshwar industrial estates on Monday. No casualties have been reported, however, both plants have suffered heavy damage.

The first fire was reported from Yashashwi Rasayan Pty. Ltd., located on plot No.765 in Jhagadia industrial estate.

The fire broke out during production of 2:4 Xylidine, an organic intermediate. A leak in a reactor resulted in the breaking of a bottom control valve, which caused an explosive fire in solvent lying nearby.

Within an hour the flames had spread across the entire plant causing heavy damage. More than six fire-tenders from Ankleshwar and Jhagadia industries and Disaster Prevention and Management Centre (DPMC) Ankleshwar rushed to the spot. They could finally control the fire after three hours.

Source: The Times of India, Harish Joshi

New York Manufacturer Cited for PSM Deficiencies

OSHA has cited Hunter Panels, LLC with 23 alleged serious safety violations at its production plant in Kingston, New York. The manufacturer of roof insulation panels faces a total of $123,000 in fines following an inspection that began in July 2012 by OSHA's Albany Area Office.

OSHA found several deficiencies in the plant's process safety management program, a detailed set of requirements and procedures employers must follow to proactively address hazards associated with processes and equipment involving large amounts of hazardous chemicals.

In this case, the chemical was n-pentane, an organic compound used in the manufacturing process. The cited deficiencies included missing process safety information, failing to develop and implement safe work practices, correct equipment deficiencies, follow up on the findings of compliance audits, address all hazards identified during a process hazard analysis, and document the resolution of corrective actions.

"The stringent and comprehensive requirements of OSHA's process safety management standard are designed to prevent catastrophic incidents, such as the uncontrolled release of highly hazardous chemicals," said Kimberly Castillon, OSHA's area director in Albany. "The safety and well-being of employees requires full, effective and proactive adherence to the standard's requirements by the employer."

OSHA's inspection also identified deficiencies in the plant's emergency response, confined space and hazardous energy control programs, lack of personal protective equipment, accumulation of combustible dust, as well as fall and respirator hazards.

The citations can be viewed at:
http://www.osha.gov/ooc/citations/HunterCitations.pdf

Along came a spider and a woman with insect spray - the washing machine blew up, the windows blew out and the woman was injured……

Police say a 66-year-old woman spotted a spider on the washing machine of her Kirribilli home, on Sydney's north shore…..

She opted for insecticide and sprayed the spider which ran under the machine.

The woman pursued the spider, sprayed under the machine and it exploded.

The blast blew out the kitchen and bathroom windows and destroyed the washing machine.

Fire investigators believe the motor of the washing machine ignited the insect spray, triggering the explosion. She suffered blurred vision and singed hair, and was treated at the scene by paramedics.

There was no sign of the spider, police say. Source: 9 News National

ACAPMA Seeks Dangerous Goods Training Rethink

Photo: digiplanet.com

The Australasian Convenience and Petroleum Marketers Association (ACAPMA) wants driver training changes, pointing to evidence that accident risks are higher for experienced drivers within the dangerous goods industry.

It points to data analysis by Lumley Insurance that shows 81 percent of insurance claim costs come from accidents caused by truck drivers.

The analysis, of claims made in the past three years, has found experienced drivers to make more mistakes than the newcomers, according to ACAPMA CEO Nic Moulis.

“The report suggests that a driver with between six to 10 years’ experience is more at risk of having a claimable accident,” Moulis says.

“This new research shows that there is a pattern when it comes to the cause and cost of truck accident claims in the dangerous goods industry.

“Unfortunately, the driver is the main cause of most incidents and rehabilitating the driver is a significant cost in the claims process.”

Moulis says it’s time for businesses to get proactive about training so the safety culture is improved as experienced drivers are more relaxed about training and safety.

“What we are seeing is that while drivers are taking training and safety on board in their first few years on the job, over time, complacency or lack of cultural reinforcement is leading to a higher rate of accidents,” he adds.

“All of these accident-causing activities can be rectified by driver safety training and risk management initiatives that companies can easily implement.

“Businesses need to focus on educating their drivers about the role they play in their own safety.

“Every driver walks around their truck and does an inspection of its safety before taking it on the road. However, most drivers have not taught how to analyse their own risk of functional failure before getting behind the steering wheel.”

The ACAPMA has been working with the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council (TILSC) in building career paths for dangerous goods tanker drivers, which has introduced Certificate IV in Tanker Operations.

“Tanker drivers, particularly the fuel tanker drivers are the ‘pilots of the road’," Moulis says.

“However, what has become evident in the construction of the skill sets and course materials and through the roll out of the pilot program is that there is a need to focus on the driver as a person, not just as the operator of the vehicle.”

Source: Australian Transport News