



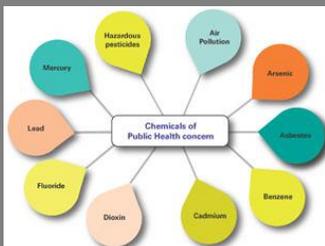
Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

January 2013

**Welcome to
our new
Associate
Member**

**Kevin Foat
Queensland**



Comcare: Updates to Work Health and Safety Regulations

Recent changes relating to the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Regulations may affect you and your organization.

Lead Risk Work

From 1 January 2013, PCBU's will be responsible for notifying Comcare of lead risk work that is being undertaken at a workplace and the removal of a worker from lead risk work. Written notifications will be required to be submitted to Comcare within seven days of identifying lead risk work. PCBU's will also have a responsibility to demonstrate the assessment of each lead process carried out in the workplace to ensure the risk to workers' health and safety is minimised as far as reasonably practicable.

Carcinogens

As of 1 January 2013, PCBU's will be required to apply for an authorisation to use, handle or store prohibited and restricted carcinogens at a workplace. Authorisations will be subject to Comcare's approval and PCBU's will be required to demonstrate their risk management processes to ensure appropriate consideration has been given to the health and safety of workers.

For further details goto: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2012L02438>

Ten Chemicals of Major Public Health Concern

Chemicals are part of our daily life. All living and inanimate matter is made up of chemicals and virtually every manufactured product involves the use of chemicals. Many chemicals can, when properly used, significantly contribute to the improvement of our quality of life, health and well-being. But other chemicals are highly hazardous and can negatively affect our health and environment when improperly managed. The leaflet listed below summarizes scientific evidence and provides risk management recommendations for the 10 chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern.

Goto: http://www.who.int/ipcs/features/10chemicals_en.pdf

Classify Hazardous Areas Workshop

25, 26 and 27 February, 2013 in Sydney

Only a few places left!

See November Newsletter or email robhogan@tpg.com.au

Toxic Water Leaks Underground

Toxic chemicals that escaped from a massive tyre fire on New Year's Day have leaked into an underground water system in south-west Sydney, posing a potentially serious environmental threat.

The run-off, which contains poisonous and carcinogenic substances from the burning rubber tyres, seeped into stormwater drains underneath the site in Miller Road, Villawood, as firefighters fought to put out the blaze in a large shed stacked full of recycled tyres.

It is not known how far the toxic run-off has travelled down drains and creeks that run into the Prospect Creek system, and in turn the Georges River.

Henry Moore, the acting director of waste and resource recovery for the EPA, said they are trying to determine how far the "fire-water" has spread. "Preliminary findings are that it reached about 1.5 kilometres down a concrete stormwater channel and canal leading from the site at Miller Road, where the fire occurred," Mr Moore said. "The stormwater drains from the site are now blocked so no more water can leave the site."

No public warning has been issued because it is understood that no one draws water from the stormwater channel for irrigation or drinking and the flow of contaminated water from the site has been stopped.

The EPA was testing water from the concrete canals under the site. The EPA has also issued a clean-up notice to the site operator, Shark Pty Ltd, requiring them to pump out contaminated water.

Mariann Lloyd-Smith, a senior adviser with the National Toxics Network, said the fire-water was likely to contain neurotoxins, carcinogens and heavy metal but the extent of the environmental impact would depend on the concentration of the toxic chemicals

Source: Natalie O'Brien, Sydney Morning Herald

LPG Fire at Re-filling Plant

Hazardous materials officers from Fire and Rescue NSW say they are concerned about possible asbestos contamination after a fire at a Rosehill gas plant. Roads were closed off around the factory, where liquefied petroleum gas bottles are re-filled, after the fire.

Parramatta fire fighter Bob Callow said the fire had been contained to an area away from the LPG storage and there had been no explosions.

Mr. Callow said hazardous materials officers from Fire and Rescue NSW were working at the site to clear up contamination for burnt materials. Initial reports were that the fire had started in a painting booth, he said. But investigators later said a full report into the cause of the blaze would not be ready until the end of week. Source: The Blacktown Sun



Fumes and fire ... the blaze at a tyre factory in Villawood on New Year's Day. Photo: Fire & Rescue NSW



Fire crews from Parramatta and Silverwater attended the Rosehill factory. Picture: Mike Szabbath.

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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Dust Collector Management Strategies for Industry 2013 – Free Conference Tuesday, January 22

This item was taken from the Engineers Australia site

<http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/events/dust-collector-management-strategies-industry-2013>

If your company is involved in plant design, equipment manufacturing or regulation for dust control, dust explosion prevention or protection, industry manufacturing which includes, cement, pharmaceutical, coal, food, then this event will be of benefit to you.

This is the first time in Australia such an event will be held to bring together the buyers and suppliers in powders, bulk solids, production and processing industries to create a platform for profitable and intelligent working.

Registration: Registration is FREE. This is an industry sponsored event. Entrance to the sessions as registered, refreshments and lunch, plus all available presentations. Late papers will be made available electronically, five days after the event.

Hosted by: Donaldson Filtration Solutions

Contact: 0418 486 617

Email: dustcollector@donaldson.com

Download:

http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/sites/default/files/12iaf042_dust_collector_management_strategies_v3_2.pdf

NICNAS 2013

The latest edition of this Newsletter can be downloaded from:

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

Young Worker Killed in Gas Tank Explosion: WorkSafe, B.C., Canada

Goto: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bsYFWy9o1_o

Service Station Australia Magazine

The latest copy is available now:

Goto: <http://interactivepdf.uniflip.com/2/79616/291398/pub/index.html>



HSE Proposes Chemicals Consolidation

The HSE is seeking views on proposals to streamline chemicals regulations by amalgamating seven existing sets of legislation into one statutory instrument. The regulatory measures contained in the consultation support EU regulations on: biocidal products; the export and import of hazardous chemicals (commonly known as the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Regulation); and the classification, labelling and packaging (CLP) of substances and mixtures.

No changes are proposed to the main duties for biocides, PIC and CLP, which are, or will be, established at EU level through directly applicable regulations.

The proposals implement a recommendation by Professor Löfstedt for the HSE to identify and carry out sector-specific regulatory consolidation programmes, in order to help businesses understand and comply with the law. They also meet EU requirements to establish competent authorities and enforcement arrangements. The overall effect of the plans will be the revocation of seven statutory instruments, which will be replaced by one single instrument (known as the '7 into 1' package).

HSE also proposes to put in place new regulations to enable HSE to charge for the work it carries out under the new Biocides Regulation; however this will be covered in a separate consultation on the proposed fee regime, including the fee structure and fee levels.

The seven sets of legislation will be repealed on 1 September this year, on which date the new consolidated statutory instrument will come into force. This will be in precise line with the replacement of the European Biocidal Products Directive with the new EU Regulation.

New regulations are also planned to enable the HSE to charge for the work it carries out under the new Biocides Regulation. These will be covered in a separate consultation on the proposed fees regime.

The consultation, which remains open until 31 January, can be found at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd249.htm>

Responses can be e-mailed to: <mailto:ChemicalsConsultation@hse.gsi.gov.uk>

Cleaning Solvents & Thinners: Safety Alert

This safety alert is about the adverse health effects of volatile solvents and thinners. All volatile solvents have the potential to cause a person to lose consciousness, and suffer a cardiac arrhythmia and possibly death when used in an enclosed or poorly ventilated area. Toluene xylene, hexane, methyl ethyl ketone, naphthalene, and other petroleum-based solvents have been implicated in deaths. Other chemicals present in proprietary thinners can greatly increase skin absorption causing or exacerbating toxic effects.



Cleaning solvents and thinners: Safety Alert –

goto: http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/cleaning_solvents_and_thinners_3824.pdf



Transitional Arrangements Extended

A range of transitional arrangements for the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations which were to expire on 1 January 2013 have been extended to allow NT WorkSafe Additional time to work with business to understand the new regulatory requirements and put measures in place to ensure compliance.

The updated Northern Territory Transitional arrangements can be found at:

http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/Legislation/New%20Work%20Health%20and%20Safety%20Laws/Documents/northern_territory_transitional_arrangements.pdf

AMSA: Toxic Flotsam Source

Details of this were in your October Newsletter.

Now authorities say they may never determine who's responsible for those canisters of a deadly chemical washing up on beaches in Queensland and NSW. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is still investigating the source of more than 20 silver canisters of aluminium phosphide that have been washing up on beaches from north Queensland to northern NSW since February last year.

When the chemical comes into contact with air or moisture it generates a highly toxic and flammable gas, which can be fatal if inhaled.

Aluminium phosphide is often used to fumigate ships. It's unclear if the canisters may have been lost overboard accidentally or dumped. "It may not be possible to ultimately confirm the original source of the canisters due to the apparently long time lapse between when they may have entered the water and when they have been found," AMSA said in a statement.

AMSA has already checked incident reports of cargo losses but has not come up with any leads. It is currently working with drift modelling experts to determine if the canisters may have originated from recent ship groundings or accidents in the Pacific region.

AMSA is also working with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to work out if the canisters originated in Australia.

Source: AAP

Fuel Tank Explodes, Kills 2, Abu Dhabi

An empty fuel tank exploded and broke into two halves inside an automobile maintenance shop. Firefighters and ambulances were immediately rushed to the scene of the accident. Investigations are under way to determine the cause of the accident. Read more:

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/fuel-tank-explodes-kills-two-in-abu-dhabi-2013-01-14-1.490946>



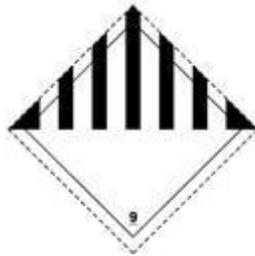
Photo: Townsville Bulletin



Lithium Battery Shipping News



The International Civil Aviation Organization, the US DOT (and FAA) and IATA are prepared to implement new lithium battery shipping regulations that will actually require Class 9 HazMat (DG) labeling for some "Excepted" small lithium batteries in addition to package testing requirements. For example, come January 1, 2013 even cell phone batteries, or compact camera batteries may require this. In addition, this new Class 9 label for SOME excepted batteries is in ADDITION to the square, red "handling label" (marking) that is already required for some excepted battery and equipment shipments.



AND in addition:



This is a drastic change that also comes with new DG documentation requirements for these "excepted" batteries when shipped in certain configurations, and the threshold to be excepted from these new requirements is now reduced to 2.7 Watt-hours. Yes, two point seven, not 27 (or currently it's 100 Wh!). Your typical compact camera or cell phone has more power than that (i.e. a 3.7 volt camera battery at 900 milliamps [.9 Ah] is still over 3 Wh and thus falls under this new rule. If you have a removable battery in your cell phone -- take a look at the volts and multiply by the amps and see if it's more than 2.7 Wh. Guaranteed, it will be over this new threshold that requires the new hazard label and documentation and package tests in certain circumstances.

Source: www.dgtraining.com

Three Charged with Murder over Indianapolis Explosion

Those charged in a gas explosion that devastated part of the Indianapolis neighbourhood of Richmond Hill deliberately set up the deadly blast to collect a large insurance payout, authorities said. Watch and hear on youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7M0ggoiFXo>



Fire at Australian Nuclear Facility

A fire broke out at a nuclear research reactor in Sydney, but authorities said the blaze was brought under control and there appeared to be no damage to the reactors.

The fire broke out as the city sweltered through a heatwave which has triggered dozens of bushfires, but the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) said the incident was not linked to the weather conditions.

The state fire service said smoke was detected in an electrical substation at the rear of the Lucas Heights nuclear facility in southern Sydney but the source was yet to be found. "There was smoke evident in two rooms, they're doing smoke extraction and then they're cooling," a spokesman told AFP.

Two fire crews and a hazardous materials unit were on the scene but the spokesman said it did not seem to be serious and there was not thought to be any danger to the reactors themselves.

ANSTO said on-site fire wardens "extinguished what was believed to be a fire in electrical wiring", and that it posed no danger to the facility.

Lucas Heights is home to two reactors, the high flux Australian reactor which began operations in 1958 and is in the process of being decommissioned, and its successor the open pool Australian lightwater, or OPAL, which went live in 2006.

The main OPAL reactor was shut down as a precaution and will remain offline until deemed safe to resume operations, an ANSTO spokesman said.

"The OPAL reactor is shut down and is safe. The issue was dealt with within around one hour, no injuries have been reported, and there is no ongoing issue at the site," he said.

The OPAL reactor does not produce power but is used to produce medical and industrial radioisotopes, irradiate silicon used in semi-conductors, conduct mineral analysis and other scientific research.

"ANSTO is currently undertaking an investigation into the cause of the issue although it is not believed that it was linked to current weather conditions," the spokesman said.

Source: theWest.com.au



An aerial view of the Lucas Heights Nuclear Facility.
Photo: The Daily Telegraph

Saudi Waste Treatment Fire Kills Six

Civil Defense spokesman Colonel Ali al-Qahtani told the Saudi Press Agency that six foreign workers died in a fire which broke out in a tank containing benzene and diesel mixture at the Environment Development Limited Company (EDCO) waste treatment plant in the industrial city of Jubail, eastern Saudi Arabia. He said the fire broke out as workers were "conducting maintenance and welding," resulting in an explosion, adding that the fire was fully contained by firefighters. Dozens were also injured in the explosion and blaze on December 22.

EDCO provides environmental services including hazardous waste management, environmental engineering and site remediation.

Source: HazardEx



Officials Support New Australian Ammonium Nitrate Plant

ABC TV reports that the Newcastle Port Corporation is backing plans for another ammonium nitrate plant in the city, despite fears about the potential for a catastrophic explosion. Incitec Pivot will wait two years before deciding if it presses ahead with plans for a \$650 million ammonium nitrate plant on Newcastle's Kooragang Island.

Residents are concerned about the potential for an explosion, as well as noise, air and water pollution.

There is also concern about its close proximity to Orica's existing Kooragang Island ammonium nitrate plant, which has had several pollution incidents.

More than 350 submissions have been lodged on Incitec's proposal – the EIS was reported on in the September Newsletter - and many say the explosion risk is too great.

New South Wales Health says an emergency management plan for the proposed plant should carefully analyse the impact of all possible hazards, including sabotage and natural disasters.

Orica has questioned the project's noise, hazard and risk assessments. But the Newcastle Port Corporation has backed the proposal, saying it facilitates the greater utilisation of port infrastructure.

Source: HazardEx

Neptune Rejects U.S. Class-action Lawsuit over Deadly Explosion

Neptune Technologies & Bioresources Inc. says it will fight a U.S. class-action lawsuit from shareholders over a powerful explosion and fire at its industrial plant in Sherbrooke, Quebec, that killed three and injured 18 last month.

The Quebec-based company said that the lawsuit is "completely without merit" and that it has "substantial and meritorious legal and factual defences, which Neptune intends to pursue vigorously."

The law firm representing shareholders claims, among other things, that Neptune had installed larger acetone storage tanks at the Sherbrooke production plant that facilitated "dangerously high levels" of of the chemical at the site.

Neptune said that the amount of acetone levels stored on-site or used in the production of its krill oil products never exceeded levels permitted by the province. It also obtained the required construction permits for the plant expansion and was in the process of obtaining the required environmental permits for the expansion.

The incident occurred in Quebec's Eastern Townships at a facility which produces health products derived from marine life.

Source: The Canadian Press

See also your November Newsletter for details of the explosion



Photo: digitaljournal.com



**Photo:
edmontonjournal.com**

Mine Waste Water a Concern Ahead of Wet Season in Northern Queensland

Despite the heat wave wracking the nation, concerns have been raised over the management of mine waste water ahead of the wet season. The Queensland Government has begun consulting with miners in North Queensland over potential waste water releases. Mine waster release has long been an issue in the city, and rose to a head following the Queensland floods which saw a large number of mines unintentionally release mine waste water into nearby river systems, or forced to release levels in excess of their agreed upon limits.

With many mines being hit by the DERM, the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) called for changes to be made to the Environmental Protection Act.

By 4 December 2010, six mines notified the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) that they had breached environmental authority conditions. By 6 January 2011 this had risen to 13 coal mines and 4 coal seam gas projects in the basins. However, this was lower than in the 2009/10 wet season when more than 20 coal mines saw unauthorised water releases caused by heavy rainfalls. Now the government is focusing on releases again, particularly at a nickel refinery in the state.

Yesterday DERM acting executive director Ingrid Forniatti Minnesma said it is engaging with miners regarding water management. "Queensland Nickel has submitted a corrective action plan to EHP to address the water management issues at the site and this plan has been reviewed and comments have been provided back to Queensland Nickel," she said. "Queensland Nickel submitted a draft Transitional Environmental Program (TEP) to EHP yesterday which proposed various actions to manage the risk of a release from the tailings storage facility. These actions include diverting storm water away from the tailings storage facility and constructing additional contaminated water storage capacity on site to reduce the spill risk in the future. "The department is reviewing the TEP as a matter of priority. Queensland Nickel requires a permit from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) should it choose to use its ocean outfall pipeline." It came after WWF called on state acting premier Jeff Seeney to act on what it called potentially environmentally disastrous accident waiting to happen at the Yabulu nicklel refinery.

Source: Australian Mining, Cole Latimer

Solvents and IBCs

As part of their strong commitment towards the support of a safe and responsible use of solvents, ESIG and SIA (Solvents Industry Association) have produced a DVD to increase the awareness of safe IBC handling among solvent users and to promote best practice techniques throughout the supply chain. Watch:

<http://www.esig.org/en/library/multimedia/solvents-and-ibcs/solvents-and-ibcs-2>



Photo: Australian Mining

**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**

China: Chemical Leaks into River



Villagers in Changzhi, Shanxi province, remove contaminated ice from the Zhuozhang River. Zhang Wei / China Daily



Workers place bags of activated carbon into the water to absorb contaminants in Yuecheng reservoir in Handan, Hebei province, after it was polluted by aniline that flowed in from Shanxi province. Zhu Xudong / Xinhua



The lower area of the field, containing hundreds of withered cornstalks, was covered by a sheet of reddish-brown ice. Hundreds of people armed with iron picks and shovels were cutting holes roughly half a meter in diameter in the ice, clearing away the nearly 5-centimeter-thick layer. They then tipped large bags of activated carbon - charcoal treated with oxygen - into the half-meter-deep water underneath to absorb the contaminants.

That was the scene at a reservoir in Changzhi in Shanxi province. Following a leak of aniline, a derivative of benzene used in several industrial processes, including dyeing and the production of pigments, the reservoir was flooded by the toxic chemical which is believed to cause liver and kidney damage.

The leak, caused by a crack in a delivery pipeline to a storage tank, of 30 tons of aniline, which has a density similar to water, was erroneously directed into the reservoir, which has lain unused since 1993.

As temperatures dropped to -13 C, the upper layer of aniline froze, allowing the clean-up teams to break the "ice" into pieces and ship it away, while using activated carbon to absorb the chemicals remaining in the unfrozen water below.

Almost 5,000 local people, including soldiers, police, and workers have been involved in the cleanup, according to the local emergency management office. 670 metric tons of contaminated ice, and more than 750 tons of wastewater have been cleared away.

Approximately 39 metric tons leaked into an 80-sq-km river basin and affected 28 villages in Shanxi, and two other cities in the neighbouring provinces of Henan and Hebei.

Some water supplies to Handan were suspended briefly after the accident, but have now been restored.

In 2008, an automatic monitoring centre, the first in China and costing 850 million yuan, was established in Shanxi. The centre, under the direction of the leader of the provincial department of environmental protection, monitors discharges of pollutants from a number of companies, including Tianji Coal Chemical Industry Group and sends real-time reports to the department via wireless Internet.

The provincial administration has yet to respond to the question of why the monitoring system didn't work when the aniline spill occurred.

The website of Tianji Coal Chemical Industry Group claims that the company was commended in 2011 for its achievements in environmental protection, energy conservation and emissions reductions.

However four officials from the company that owns the plant, Tianji Coal Chemical Industry Group - a State-owned company that is one of China's largest producers of compound fertilizers - were sacked on.

A general manager and a deputy manager were among them.

Source: China Daily USA, by Wu Wencong and Sun Ruisheng in Shanxi and Peng Yining in Beijing (China Daily)

Nuplex Fire - Toxic Fumes, Traffic Chaos

W.A.s Canning Vale residents were being warned of dangerous smoke after a building fire on Nicholson Road.

The fire at Nuplex Composites, a company which manufactures fibre glass and resins, caused a chemical spill and resulted in several closures on Roe Highway.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services was called to the fire in the late afternoon and seven fire trucks and 30 firefighters attended the scene.

The blaze was contained and under control but 28 firefighters from seven brigades remained on the scene into the night. The cause of the fire is still being investigated.

Dangerous smoke prompted an alert to be issued for people in Langford, Lynwood, Canning Vale, Thornlie, Parkwood and Beckenham. People in the area were urged to stay inside with doors and windows closed and switch air-conditioners off. People at the Whaleback Golf Course were evacuated in the afternoon.

Source: Manufacturers Monthly



**Picture:
Twitter/EmergencyAUS**



**Fire crews at Canning Vale.
Pictures: Liam Croy/The
West Australian**



Eight Killed in Turkish Mine Blast

According to Hurriyet, eight mine workers were killed on January 7 due to a gas explosion at a coal mine in the Black Sea province of Zonguldak.

Burhan Inan, general manager of state-owned Turkish Hard Coal Enterprise (TTK), which operates the mine in Kozlu district, told reporters that the eight were killed in a blast caused by a methane leak.

Following the blast it was revealed that authorities at the mine failed to implement the recommendations of a damning official report from 2011 that outlined significant safety breaches. "It is a coincidence that a fatal incident has not occurred yet [at the Kozlu coal mine]," read the report which was prepared by the Turkish Audit Courts for Turkish Parliament's public economic enterprise body in 2011. The report further revealed that TTK's operating sub-contractor was not actually a mining firm but a construction company instead.

Inan told Anatolia News Agency late last month that work safety has been a high-level priority for years following past firedamp explosions and industrial accidents. "Sometimes our workers get lost underground and we can't find them. So we decided to track them with chips in order to locate and reach them easily in the event of these kinds of incidents," he said.

Around 2,000 workers are currently being tracked with imported LED chips and the TTK is planning to extend this coverage to all 8,800 employees working underground in the Zonguldak mining coal catchment area. A total of 2,554 miners were killed and more than 13,000 lost the ability to work between 1991 and 2008. Turkey has the worst safety record in terms of mining accidents and explosions in Europe and the third worst in the world, according to reports.

In Turkey's worst mine disaster, a gas explosion killed 270 workers near Zonguldak in 1992. Source: HazardEx

Counting the Cost of Mercury Pollution

Cleaning up mercury pollution and reducing prenatal exposure to the neurotoxin methylmercury (MeHg) could save the European Union €10,000 million per year, finds a new study published in BioMed Central's open access journal *Environmental Health*.

New estimates suggest that between 1.5 and 2 million children in the EU are born each year with MeHg exposures above the safe limit of 0.58µg/g and 200,000 above the WHO recommended maximum of 2.5µg/g.

While some mercury occurs naturally in the environment for example from volcanic eruptions or forest fires, most is generated by burning fossil fuels. Marine and fresh water species bioconcentrate MeHg; consequently the main source of exposure for humans is from eating fish.

A team of researchers from across Europe used the DEMOCOPHES study of exposure to environmental chemicals to assess the impact of MeHg on humans. Hair samples of child-mother pairs, collected from 17 European countries, demonstrated that, as a lower estimate, 1,866,000 children are born in Europe exposed to toxic levels of MeHg. 232,000 of these are exposed to hazardous levels, five times higher.

But not every child in Europe is equally at risk. When analyzed per country, children born in Portugal and Spain were the most exposed to MeHg, and Hungary the least.

Exposure to MeHg in humans affects brain development, resulting in a lower IQ, and consequently a lower earning potential. The long term cost to society can be calculated as lifetime earning loss per person, although this estimate does not take into account other aspects of brain toxicity or risks of cardiovascular disease in adults.

Professor Philippe Grandjean explained, "If we convert the effects of MeHg on developing brains into IQ points then the benefits of controlling MeHg pollution equates to 700,000 IQ points per year and monetary benefits of €8,000 to €9,000 million per year for the whole of the EU. Exposure abatement would mainly benefit southern Europe."

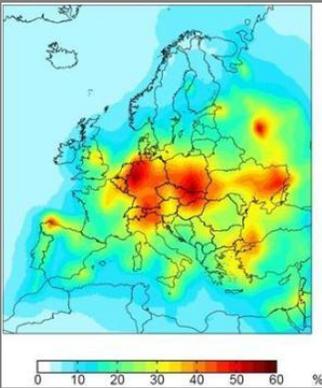
Once MeHg is formed, it cycles through the environment for thousands of years, exposing humans and other species to potentially toxic levels for generations. Commenting on the research Dr Elsie Sunderland said, "Mitigating the harm caused by methylmercury requires global-scale cooperation on policies and source reductions. Negotiations by the United Nations Environment Program are currently underway to address mercury emission levels."

Science News Story Source: The above story is reprinted from materials provided by BioMed Central Limited, via AlphaGalileo.

Watch a Video about E15 gas if you have a Car Older than 2012

<http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/2000862202001/>

Or Watch on Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceW9Nc1hVHU>



Mercury exposure in Europe. Image courtesy of BioMed Central Limited

Why Would They?



Unsecured oxygen bottles with electric salamander heater



HazCom Labeling Problem: That wasn't coffee or water in those containers

USFA Coffee Break Training - Hazardous Materials: Aboveground Flammable and Combustible Liquid Tank Emergency Venting — Part 2: Tank Shapes

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to describe common types of aboveground flammable and combustible liquid storage tanks based on their shapes.



Aboveground flammable and combustible liquid tanks are produced in a variety of shapes. Tanks are permitted to be of any shape, size or type consistent with sound engineering practices. They do not have to be listed by an independent testing agency. (See Coffee Break Training FP-2010-21 for a description of “listed” products.) The most common shapes of steel tanks are cylindrical horizontal, cylindrical vertical and rectangular.

Read more: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cb_fp_2013_2.pdf

Major Fire at India's Hazira Depot

An explosion set off a major fire at a diesel storage tank of Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) Hazira terminal in Surat. IOC sources said tank number 4 had developed a leak three day before and welding work by three workers from IOC's Vadodara unit was on when the explosion occurred. The whereabouts of the welders were not known.

However, Surat district collector J P Shivhare said there were no reports of any casualties so far.

Meanwhile, 500 fire fighters from Surat, Navsari and Billimora were battling to extinguish the fire. Fire fighters from ONGC, L&T, Essar and Reliance Industries were also assisting them. At least 25 water tankers are engaged in putting out the fire in the tank, while over 55 fire tenders and 30 water tankers trying to prevent spreading of fire to other tanks in the vicinity.

It would still take several hours before the fire is extinguished, sources said.

There are 17 tanks in the depot located at Icchapur near Batha in Hazira, some 18 km away from Surat city. Each tank has a capacity to store 55 lakh litres of petroleum products.

So far the IOC has suffered a loss of about Rs 50 crore and this could go up to Rs 150 crore, sources said. There are 40 petrol rail wagons of ONGC stationed near the IOC terminal depot.

The first priority of the authorities is to shift them to a safe location. Pankaj Patel, chief fire officer, Surat Municipal Corporation, said the upper lid of the tank was blown 30 metres away in the explosion. He said the billowing smoke was making it difficult for the fire fighters and the night could make the matters worse.

Patel said there was a requirement of 22,000 litres of water per minute to put out the fire and check its spread. He said assistance has also been sought from Ahmedabad and Vadodara fire brigades.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com>





Photo:

<http://bartlesvillerradio.com>

**I am grateful for
any contributions –
this month my
thanks to Peter
Hunt and Don
Johnston**



**Guru Gobind Singh Super
Thermal Plant, Ropar
Photo: pcpsl.in**

ConocoPhillips Accused of Violating Californian Hazardous Waste Laws

Phillips 66 (PSX) and ConocoPhillips (COP) have been accused of violating California environmental laws by failing to properly maintain underground gas storage tanks, the state's attorney general's office said. In a civil lawsuit filed in Alameda County Superior Court, the state accused the companies of tampering with leak detection devices, and failing to test secondary containment systems and maintain alarm systems, among other violations. ConocoPhillips spun off its downstream business, including retail operations, as Phillips 66 last year as part of a three-year restructuring plan aimed at improving the company's finances. Daren Beaudou, a spokesman for ConocoPhillips, said Wednesday that the California lawsuit "is [Phillips 66's] issue on which to comment, not ours." Phillips 66 spokeswoman Janet Grothe said the company doesn't comment on legal matters. The companies were also accused of improperly handling and disposing of hazardous wastes associated with the tanks, which are used to store fuel for retail sale at more than 560 California gas stations. "The state's hazardous waste laws help protect our residents from contaminated groundwater," Attorney General Kamala D. Harris said. "This lawsuit safeguards public health by ensuring proper maintenance of the tanks that store fuel beneath many California communities."

Source: <http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/01/02/phillips-66-conocophillips-accused-violating-california-hazardous-waste-laws/>

Fire in Oil Tank at Ropar Thermal Plant

A major fire broke out in an oil tank at Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Plant, Ropar. According to information the fire broke out after a blast in the Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) tank no 3 of the thermal plant. The blast was so severe that its impact was heard at long distance away from the thermal plant including Ropar town. All the senior officials of the thermal plant including Chief Engineer K.Lall, who were at new year function organised in the thermal plant, have reached the site immediately. Ropar Deputy Commissioner Pardeep Kumar Aggarwal, who had also come to attend the function also rushed to the site of fire to supervise the fire fighting operations. Senior police officials also reached the spot. Fire tenders of the Thermal Plant, Ropar Municipal Council, NFL Nangal and BBMB as well as from SAS Nagar were pressed in to service to control the fire. The fire brigade officials were making efforts to stop the fire from spreading to adjoining oil tanks. The tank had reportedly oil level of around 1.4 meters at the time of blast. The HFO tank is away from main building of the plant and there is no danger to plant and machinery of units. The cause of the fire could not be ascertained immediately. No loss of life was reported due to fire. However, PSPCIL suffered a huge loss due to blast and fire in the oil tank. All the units of the thermal Plant are running normally. The fire could not be controlled till late in the night.

Source: <http://punjabnewslines.com/news>

USFA Coffee Break Training - Inspection Techniques: Pressure-Vacuum Vent Maintenance

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to list the inspection and maintenance requirements for pressure-vacuum vents attached to aboveground flammable or combustible liquid storage tanks.

The device at the top of the pipe is a pressure-vacuum vent for routine venting of aboveground flammable or combustible liquid storage tanks. The vent opens and closes in response to internal tank pressure changes such as those that occur during filling or discharging operations. Without adequate venting, the walls of these tanks could burst or collapse.

Read more: http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/coffee-break/cb_fp_2012_52.pdf



The pressure Vac Vent should be inspected monthly and maintained during freezing conditions

Chemical Spill Forces Plant Evacuation

More than half a tonne of chemicals have been spilled at an Amcor site in Preston, Victoria, forcing workers to evacuate. About 25 firefighters arrived at the Bell Street scene, where three different chemical products had been accidentally released. The chemicals were quickly contained but had already produced a gas that Metropolitan Fire Brigade commander Martin Braid said had the potential to be toxic when combined.

Commander Braid said the owners had acted quickly and there was no indication that any chemicals had gone into any waterways and impacted the community.

It is the second chemical spill in as many days, with more than 30 firefighters called to Ace Heat Treaters in Richmond after hydrochloric acid was accidentally mixed with hydrogen peroxide, creating a chlorine cloud in the factory. The spill was contained within three and a half hours after firefighters arrived at the scene. About 25 workers from surrounding factories were evacuated and police blocked off River and Burnley streets from Bridge Road. Ace Heat Treaters employees had already been evacuated by the time emergency services had arrived at the scene.

Source: The Age, Alana Schetzer

Poisoned Gas Cloud in Iztapalapa Cellar

Mexico's Elements of Heroic Firefighters said a 200 litre drum of aluminum phosphide was spilt in the basement of a grain warehouse. The chemical is used as an insecticide. Workers of the company where the incident occurred, tried to wash the toxic material, but aluminum phosphide, but it reacted with the water and created a toxic cloud that was seen for a radius of 200 metres. 350 people, workers and residents of nearby properties, were evacuated. Source: noticierostelevisa.esmas.com

Watch the Video (in Spanish): http://noticierostelevisa.esmas.com/df/543337/10-intoxicados-nube-gas-bodega-iztapalapa/?goback=.gde_167203_member_200667884



THE CATALYST – January 2013

The January 2013 edition of The Catalyst is now available for download from the JOIFF website at www.joiff.com Enter the site, click on the page for Catalyst and you will see this edition at the top of the list. Click to download. If you have accessed The Catalyst before, you may need to refresh your page if the new link does not appear.

Euticals, Sandycroft: Explosive Chemicals to be Removed

A large quantity of potentially explosive chemicals which was found at a Flintshire pharmaceuticals factory is to be removed.

A team of experts will dispose of isosorbide dinitrate, known as ISDN, from the Euticals plant in Sandycroft, which has been shut down for more than a month.

ISDN is used to make angina medication.

It was discovered during an inspection after three workers were hospitalised following a chemical spill.

As a result, 3,000 letters and leaflets informing people about the potential hazard from the chemical were delivered to homes and businesses in November.

Flintshire council and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) said in a joint statement that Euticals was "working co-operatively" with agencies to finalise its plan to safely treat and remove the ISDN.

Euticals director Tim Dowd hoped the disposal operation would start within the next two weeks.

"The site is still locked down, we are co-operating fully with the Health and Safety Executive"

He said the plan involved neutralising the chemicals within the factory before removing them from the site.

"We are co-operating fully with the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency and other agencies."

Earlier this year, Euticals was fined £100,000 at Mold Crown Court for failing to comply with three safety improvement notices demanded by the HSE.

Judge Phillip Hughes criticised the factory's previous owners, Archima Limited, for "abysmal management and incompetent" handling of safety procedures and said the company had shown "reckless disregard for adhering to the law".

The case was brought after an incident in November last year which resulted in a release of toxic gas from the factory.

The judge was told that nearly £1m would be spent over two years on safety improvements at the plant.

Source: BBC News for North East Wales



Euticals in Sandycroft remains in 'lock down'



Euticals, Prince William Avenue, Sandycroft Photo: Daily Post.co.uk

TankTalk Newsletter

This includes 2012 SFPA and IFC code updates

To download goto:

<http://www.steeltank.com/Portals/0/TTNewsletter/December%202012/TANK%20TALK%20JAN%202013.pdf>

Chinese Rail Firm 'in blast cover-up'

China Railway Group (0390) has been criticized by the Shanxi provincial government for covering up details of a Christmas Day explosion in which at least eight workers reportedly died and five were injured.

The explosion occurred in a tunnel being built by Erchu, a subsidiary of the railway group, in Linfen, Xinhua News Agency reported.

But rival media said the death toll may be as high as 60 with the explosion reportedly having the force of 120 kilograms of dynamite. However, the company did not report the accident until after it was revealed on the internet this week.

The information center of the Shanxi government condemned the attempted cover-up as "terribly disgusting" and acting Shanxi governor Li Xiaopeng criticized local government leaders and transport officials for not having sufficient information about the tragedy, Xinhua said.

Li expressed his gratitude to citizens for providing information about the explosion. The government has pledged a thorough investigation and said four suspects have been detained. Source: BBC News

The Basics of Oil Spill Cleanup - 3rd Edition

A third edition of the Basics of Oil Spill Cleanup has been published by CRC Press. The book, by environment and engineering consultant Merv. Fingas, covers the properties of oil, how oil spills are measured and detected, different cleanup techniques and the long term impact of spills. The latest edition contains a new chapter on the impact of oil pollution on wildlife and details about the latest technologies available to responders.

Goto: <http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9781439862469>

Source: Thank you to Hazardous Cargo Bulletin for this article.

Gas Leak at Hindustan Zinc Plant

Workers and villagers went on the rampage at Hindustan Zinc Limited's Dariba plant in Rajsamand after two of their colleagues died of severe burns and suffocation following leak of carbon monoxide from a boiler.

At least nine other workers were injured in the incident. They are undergoing treatment at a hospital in Udaipur. Angry labourers and villagers set ablaze parts of the administrative block on the plant's premises, a police van and two private vehicles besides hurling stones at the police force and the company's staffers. Some policemen also sustained minor injuries. Source: The Times of India





Eagle River Fire Protection district personnel respond to Vail Valley Animal Hospital in Edwards, Colo., after a dog apparently vomited a toxic gas sickening four people. Photo courtesy of the Eagle River Fire Protection District

Canine Patient Emits Toxic Gas

A dog thought to have ingested a toxic chemical created a dangerous situation at the Vail Valley Animal Hospital in Edwards, Colo., Dec. 7, sending an emergency room doctor and three technicians to the hospital. The Eagle River Fire Protection District suspects the dog ate zinc phosphide, commonly used as a rodenticide.

When the dog vomited up the chemical, it created toxic gas and caused respiratory distress to those attending to the animal. Tests are still pending to definitively identify the toxin.

When ingested, zinc phosphide forms a poisonous gas when it comes in contact with water. "When the dog vomited, this released the gas as the pesticide had mixed with the contents in the dog's stomach," says a statement from the Eagle River Fire Protection District.

Eagle River Fire personnel working with Vail Valley hospital staff during the incident established an effective way to remove the dog from the contaminated area and was taken outside. Equipment was also removed from the clinic so a veterinarian could continue to treat the dog, but the dog did not survive.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the suspected expelled gas--phosphine gas--is colorless, flammable and explosive at ambient temperature and carries the odor of garlic or decaying fish. Inhalation of high concentrations can be deadly--it "inhibits oxidative phosphorylation and causes lipid peroxidation damage to cells and tissues," says a release by the CDC. "Damage to the pulmonary, nervous, hepatic, renal and cardiovascular systems can occur."

The CDC regards phosphine gas exposure at veterinary clinics as an occupational risk, but it is not common. The CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) received only four reports of phosphine gas poisonings from 2006 to 2011. The reports were from veterinary clinics in Michigan, Iowa and Washington.

Source: <http://veterinarynews.dvm360.com>

This Is Why Launching Fireworks From a Hot-Air Balloon Isn't the Best Idea



Photo: imageplus.me

No matter the occasion, fireworks are always festive. Usually you'll launch them from a boat, or the ground, or maybe for your back porch, but for the Taunggyi Fire Balloon Festival, they're launched from a hot-air balloon. What could possibly go wrong, right? This. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is why we're best off sticking to good old Christmas *lights*.

Keep watching! <http://gizmodo.com/5970935/this-is-why-launching-fireworks-from-a-hot+air-balloon-isnt-the-best-idea>