



Australasian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

August 2013

**Welcome to our
new associate
Member**

**Andrew Berry
N.S.W.**

**Congratulations
also to**

**Daniel Martin
Queensland
Full Member**



AIDGC Annual Conference

Sydney

September 27

Program now out!

If you have not received yours please email

robhogan@tpg.com.au or go to the AIDGC Website

Huge Gas Explosion in Bulgaria

A total of 11 people, including seven firefighters, remain in hospital after a fire and consequent explosions occurred on a train carrying propane and butane-filled gas cisterns near Bulgaria's Black Sea city of Varna.

A Bulgarian Interior Ministry spokesman said that the gas tanker wagon explosion near the Bulgarian city of Varna was most likely caused by a gas leak, the result of a ruptured hose during the process of transferring gas from the tanker wagon into a tanker lorry.

Source: EuroNews

Watch the Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ijw69pYOCgw>

Proposed UK Acetylene Regulations

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a public consultation on new regulations that will simplify the safety legislation for acetylene. The single set of regulations (referred to as the Acetylene Safety Regulations 2014 (ASR)) cover the safety of workers and the public during the production, storage and use of acetylene.

Read More: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/consult/condocs/cd257.htm>

The Royal Australian
Chemical Institute -
RACI HSE Division
are pleased to
offer AIDGC
members the same
rate that RACI
members will receive
for their upcoming
symposiums

**Dangerous Goods
Transport
Melbourne
Tuesday 3
September 2013
Dangerous Goods
Transport
Sydney Tuesday
17 September
2013**

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receive your flyer
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Ukraine Workers Killed by Ammonia Cloud at Fertilizer Plant

Five workers were killed and 20 sickened by leaked ammonia at one of Ukraine's biggest mineral fertilizer producers, even after hundreds had been instructed to put on gas masks and evacuate. A cloud of ammonia covered a big part of the Stirol company in Donetsk region as rescue crew teams worked for hours before the leakage was stopped.

"Immediately after the accident and because of the ammonia cloud the workers were ordered to wear gas masks," Channel 5 television reported, citing the company's employees.

"However, the masks were designed for only five minutes of breathing. Therefore the victims were poisoned by ammonia."

The emergency services team has taken the situation under control almost seven hours after the initial blast, according to the report from the government. "Preliminary data indicate that there was a rupture of a liquid ammonia pipeline that had caused the blast," the local prosecutor's office reported.

Viktor Liapin, the chief of the local sanitary and epidemiological control department, said the level of ammonia concentration at the company "has not exceeded permissible levels."

Stirol is one of Ukraine's biggest mineral fertilizer producers and is part of a business empire Ostchem Holding, owned by billionaire Dmytro Firtash.

Ostchem's other assets include Ukrainian producers of nitrogen fertilizers Severdonetsk Azot, Cherkasy Azot and RivneAzot, but also Nitrofert in Estonia and TajikAzot in Tajikistan.

Stirol is expected to produce 644,300 mt of ammonium nitrate, 99,300 mt of urea-ammonia compound, 4,700 mt of sodium nitrate and 1,300 mt of sodium nitrite, according to the company.

Stirol is also Ukraine's only producer of polystyrene. It increased output 0.9% year-on-year to 8,482 metric tons of polystyrene in January-June, up from 8,408 mt produced in the same period a year ago, according to the state statistics committee.

Polystyrene is used in production of plastic goods and packaging, but also in food industry, medicine, machinery and other sectors of the economy.

Stirol has an annual capacity to produce about 50,000 mt of the commodity. The company is exporting most of the output.

In 2012 Ukraine produced 18,402 mt of polystyrene, down 11% from 20,675 mt in 2011, according to the committee.

Source: UkrainianJournal.com



HPCL Refinery Fire in India

Five people are feared dead and 40 workers were seriously injured when a fire broke out on one of the cooling towers of the Hindustan Petrochemical Corporation Ltd (HPCL) refinery at Malkapuram in Vizag.

According to eyewitnesses, welding work was going on at the site as part of the expansion and nearly 70 workers were at the site when the accident took place.

Source: The Times of India



Personnel from the Nepali Army and Armed Police Force trying to douse a fire that caught a steel factory after acid-filled tanks exploded

Tank Explosions in S.E. Nepal

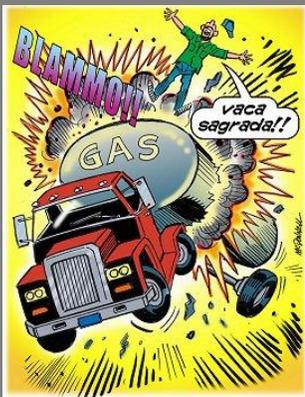
Two workers of the Bhagawati Steel Industries in the Bara-Parsa industrial corridor in Jitpur, died today after acid-filled tanks exploded and caused fire. They died after fuel tanks exploded and caught fire while they were trying to fix a pipe onto a tank. "The workers were welding a pipe onto the furnace tank, which exploded along with another one and caught fire. Both the tanks were filled with acid," said Bishal Sharma, owner of the industry, adding the repair work was going on for the past three days. "The contractors must empty the fuel tank before any work is started. They failed to follow the routine procedure and the acid-filled tanks exploded," said the kin of the deceased, hinting at negligence on the part of contractor Krishna Sapkota.

Source: The Himalayan Times

www.darwinAwards.com

Named in honor of Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, the Darwin Awards commemorate those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it.

A suggestion that perhaps Readers might like to nominate someone? <http://www.darwinawards.com/>



Ecco L'allegro Saldatore

2013 Darwin Award Nominee

Confirmed True by Darwin (5 Feb 2013, São Paulo, Brazil)
Mechanic Sérgio A. Rosa, 49, was welding a gas tanker that, curiously, exploded, sending his remains flying 400 meters through the air.

Comments: "A flammable materials tanker is like a gun. Never consider it empty, or you'll pay the price." "Did his life flash before his eyes?"



The April 2010 disaster killed 11 men. Photo: EPA

**1st CCPS
Australia-
Oceania
Workshop on
Process Safety
August 29-30
Perth**

This facilitated workshop will provide practical guidance and sharing experiences on Recognizing Catastrophic Incident Warning Signs. Identifying these subtle indicators of weaknesses in existing business processes and safety programs is an excellent way to drive continued improvement in your process safety program.

For more information
<http://www.aiche.org/ccps/conferences/ccp-s-australia-oceania-conference-on-process-safety/2013>

BP Sues US Environment Agency over Ban on Government Contracts

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) placed the ban on BP in November, freezing it out of new supply and exploration contracts, after it pleaded guilty to criminal charges related to the Gulf of Mexico disaster.

The EPA accused it of a “lack of business integrity” over the handling of the 2010 accident, which killed 11 men and spewed millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf in the worst offshore spill in US history.

BP, which was taken by surprise by the EPA ban, initially suggested it would only be a brief suspension that would soon be resolved through an agreement. But in February the EPA took further action to issue a “mandatory debarment” against BP Exploration and Production’s Houston headquarters.

BP has now sued the EPA and two senior officials at the regulator, demanding the ban be lifted.

It alleges that “the suspension of BP is unlawful, arbitrary, capricious, and an abuse of EPA’s discretion” and says it “faces a substantial threat of irreparable harm if an injunction is not granted”.

Source: Emily Gosden, The Telegraph

NICNAS Chemical Gazette: August, 2013

Is now available for download from:

<http://www.nicnas.gov.au/communications/publications/chemical-gazette/Chemical-Gazette-August-2013>

NICNAS: Voluntary Provision of Information on Stage One Chemicals

NICNAS welcomes the provision of information by introducers and users of the Stage One chemicals. A template for the provision of exposure information is available. Hazard or other relevant information can also be provided by stakeholders. Any data on chemicals for which assessment will commence in 2013-14 should be provided by 1 October 2013 to imap@nicnas.gov.au.

Information: <http://www.nicnas.gov.au/chemical-information/imap-assessments/implementation-of-imap-stage-one/voluntary-provision-of-information-on-stage-one-chemicals>

N.S.W. Department of Fair Trading - Personal Services an Industry Guide to the Australian Consumer Law

http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/biz_res/ftweb/pdfs/About_us/Publications/ACL_industry_guides/FT471_Personal_Services_ACL.pdf

WorkCover NSW Publication

Placarding for Storage of Hazardous Chemicals

A new publication 'Placarding for storage of hazardous chemicals' is now live on the WorkCover website:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Pages/placarding-for-storage-of-hazardous-chemicals.aspx>

Marine Transport – IMDG Code

AIDGC Members now can access the IMDG (International Marine Dangerous Goods) code via the Members' Only Pages on the AIDGC website.

This is free of charge and a Member only service.



National Fire Protection Association

The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

The U.S.A. NFPA makes its codes and standards available for review online by the public.

On-demand review of NFPA's consensus documents conveniently places important safety information on the desktops of traditional users as well as others who have a keen interest.

NFPA is committed to serving the public's increasing interest in technical information, and online access to these key codes is a valuable resource.

To review codes and standards online:

- [View the full list of NFPA's codes and standards.](#)
- Select the document you want to review.
- Select the edition of the document you want to review.
- Click the "Free access" link (under the document title)
- You will be asked to "sign-in" or create a profile to access the document in read-only format.

For further information goto: <http://www.nfpa.org/freeaccess>





Orca to Start Remediation at Botany

Mercury remediation works will begin at Orca's Botany plant this month after the company received approval from the Environment Protection Authority. The EPA issued a variation to an Environment Protection Licence which allows remediation work within the Botany Industrial Park, the company said in a statement.

It said it will excavate contaminated soils and construct a vapour cap and barrier walls to bedrock to contain any remaining mercury contamination in the soil. Source and image: Australian Mining

Mexico: Ammonia Gas Leak

Mexican state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos the death toll from an ammonia gas pipeline leak in the southern state of Oaxaca has risen to nine.

This accident occurred when heavy machinery used by a private company for road work damaged the conduit, the company said.

The leak in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec region also poisoned 40 people, several of whom had to be hospitalized, according to Pemex. After the accident, technicians shut off the valves and halted the flow of gas in the pipeline, which connects the Salina Cruz refinery in Oaxaca with the Cosoleacaque petrochemical complex in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz.

Oaxaca's emergency management director, Manuel Maza, said that more than 1,000 people living near the site of the accident had been evacuated.

Source: Latin America Herald Tribune



Deadly Pemex Explosion Caused by Methane

The January 31 explosion that killed at least 37 Petroleos Mexicanos employees at company headquarters in Mexico City was caused by methane gas and contributing factors, the Attorney General's office said today in an e-mailed statement.

Prosecutors confirmed methane gas combined with traces of hydrocarbons beneath the building triggered the explosion. Vapors from solvents also contributed to the explosion, which was a result of methane being ignited by electric cables used for maintenance, according to the statement.

The Mexico City headquarters was used to store hydrocarbons eight decades ago, according to the statement. More than 100 employees were injured in the blast and site operations were shut down for a week.

Source: www.bloomberg.com





US Administration Issues Order to Improve Oversight of Hazardous Chemicals

The White House has issued an executive order to improve safety and security at chemical facilities. "Incidents such as the devastating explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, in April are tragic reminders that the handling and storage of chemicals present serious risks that must be addressed," the accompanying statement said.

The executive order directs the government to improve operational coordination across the number of agencies that oversee chemical plant operations and to improve information sharing, modernize policies and work with all the affected parties to develop best practices for the industry.

The Department of Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Labor are directed to establish a Chemical Facility Safety and Security Working Group to improve coordination among federal, state and local agencies, to review the effectiveness of chemical safety programs and to develop regulatory and legislative solutions.

Read More: http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2013/08/01/198360/after-explosion-obama-issues-order.html#.UhMwX3_uKSo

U.S. C.S.B. Chairperson Calls for Regulatory Coverage of Reactive Chemicals Following the West Fertilizer Explosion and Fire

In a new video safety message released today, CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso calls for regulatory coverage of reactive chemicals following the massive ammonium nitrate explosion that killed at least 14 people and devastated the town of West, Texas, on April 17, 2013. Reactive chemicals, like ammonium nitrate, can undergo potentially hazardous chemical reactions, such as violently detonating, if not managed properly.

The safety message includes testimony from Chairperson Moure-Eraso during a hearing about the West accident before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. At that hearing, held on June 27, 2013, Chairperson Moure-Eraso said, "The destruction I personally saw at West – the obliteration of homes, schools and businesses by an ammonium nitrate explosion – was almost beyond imagination."

Watch and hear the Video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBB-Rks_uEk



Photo: au.ibtimes.com

Most U.S. Pipelines Go Uninspected

Only a small fraction of America's vast network of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines has undergone any sort of inspection in recent years, including several hundred pipelines which have spilled or broken down, according to federal records displayed by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). As a result, the safety and reliability of much of this key but volatile transport grid remains unknown.

Records obtained from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) by PEER under the Freedom of Information Act reveal that –

- Of the more than 2.6 million oil, natural gas and propane pipeline miles regulated by PHMSA less than a fifth (583,692) has been inspected by federal or state officials since 2006;
- Another 132,300 miles has been inspected by their operators during that same period but PHMSA cannot say whether any industry inspections have been independently reviewed; and
- Since 2006, there have been more than 300 incidents, such as a spill, explosion or breakdown, which triggered no follow-up inspection

Source: The Charleston Gazette Blog

Explosion Rips through Indian Submarine

An explosion ripped through a diesel-powered Indian submarine, killing at least some of the 18 sailors on board and dealing a blow to the nation's growing naval ambitions

The blast occurred at the Navy Dockyard in Mumbai less than a mile from the financial capital's luxury Taj Mahal hotel.

It took the Mumbai fire brigade more than two hours to bring the blaze under control as flames illuminated the night sky.

Navy Chief Admiral D.K. Joshi said the fire was caused by two almost simultaneous explosions. While the cause of the fire is not known, it could have been triggered by ammunition, fuel or oxygen bottles on board, he said.

Source: Andrew MacAskill and Kartikay Mehrotra, Bloomberg Businessweek

Progress on Implementing the Model Work Health and Safety Laws

SafeWork Australia Committee Members reviewed progress with implementation of the model WHS laws. Members noted the continuing delay in implementation in Victoria and WA and that New Zealand had announced it would adopt the model WHS laws.

Source: <http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/pages/default>



A view inside the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on Aug. 14, 2013.

Photographer: Indranil Mukherjee/AFP/Getty Images



safe work australia

Explosive Situations in West Ipswich

Ipswich was rocked by 24 hours of bomb drama after police found highly volatile chemicals and devices in a suspected home-made explosives factory.

The police bomb squad carried out a series of controlled explosions at the same West Ipswich home where a man's hand was blown off in a blast on Thursday evening. The Queensland Times understands the 37-year-old man has also received traumatic injuries to his groin and genitals.

The man has no digits on his left hand and just his thumb and forefinger on his right. He has sustained damage to a soft tissue area of his body and some shrapnel injuries to his face and chest. He remained in the Princess Alexandra Hospital intensive care unit last night in a critical but stable condition.

Large quantities of a highly volatile explosive material were found at the Clay St home as police continued their investigations into the initial explosion. Police said the powder that exploded in the man's hands was produced in the home.

Forensic police continued to scour the home for evidence and said they had uncovered more suspicious devices. Police declared an emergency situation for the second time in a day when they found hundreds of grams of chemicals in two jars and some home-made devices wrapped in plastic and duct tape.

Ipswich police inspector Keith McDonald said the chemicals involved were similar to the those used at the Bunnings Warehouse construction site, which faces the house, two months ago.

In that incident, a home-made explosive booby trap failed to detonate properly after it was triggered by a site worker.

"The material that has been located here is similar to the material that's been involved in the other incidents in the Ipswich area and that gives us cause for concern," he said.

Police found party poppers, which were a key component of the device found at the Bunnings construction site, at the home.

Source: The Queensland Times

Mining Detonator Explodes

A man has been seriously injured after a mining detonator exploded in rural southeast Queensland. Police say the man was camping with friends in a forest east of Inglewood, inland from Brisbane, when the detonator exploded - the 41-year-old is being treated in hospital for serious leg wounds. His friends, aged 16 and 45, weren't injured.

Source: NineMSN News



Bomb squad members find volatile substances in the back yard of a Clay St property in West Ipswich. Photo: Queensland Times



Bomb squad find volatile substance in the back yard of a Clay Street property in West Ipswich. Photo: Rob Williams / The Queensland Times

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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Teenager Suffers Horrific Injuries in Homemade Bomb Explosion

A 15-year-old north Queensland boy has undergone emergency surgery after a homemade bomb exploded on Sunday afternoon. Mackay Police say two boys, aged 14 and 15, were experimenting with low-level explosive materials when one of the bombs went off. The 15-year-old suffered horrific blast injuries, losing a hand and suffering facial, chest and throat injuries.

Police say the boys made the devices from "items used for parties". "What they were doing was wrapping up some low-level explosive material into insulation tape with a view to throwing it onto the ground and creating that explosion," said Mackay Police Inspector Andy Graham. Source: Francis Tapim, ABC News

Explosives Found at Queensland School

A similar home-made bomb to the device that nearly blew off a teenager's hand has been found on a high school oval in north Queensland. A teacher discovered two bombs sitting on the Mackay State High School's oval.

Inspector Andy Graham says one of the bombs was almost identical to the one that seriously injured a 15-year-old at a Mackay house that backs onto the school.

Inspector Graham said the two devices found at the school had already been detonated before it was discovered and Police have not uncovered any more bombs after searching the entire school grounds and surrounds.

Inspector Graham said parents need to be aware of how easy it is to make bombs out of everyday household substances with a recipe off the internet.

"There's a serious community safety message. Even though it's low-level explosives, people can be seriously hurt."

Source: 9News National

NSW Bomb Attack Foiled

Two bombs a NSW man was allegedly planning to detonate to get back at a Sydney doctor would have been more powerful than the explosions at the Boston Marathon earlier this year.

The two devices were about 60cm long and packed with shrapnel and a gas cylinder to magnify the blasts.

They were both fully assembled and fitted with timing devices.

To read more: <http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/2013/08/09/18/09/planned-nsw-bomb-attack-would-have-been-bigger-than-boston>

Australian Consumer Law Industry Guides: National Protection Laws

New industry specific guides to help businesses better understand and adhere to the Australian Consumer Law (ACL) have been released.

NSW Fair Trading Commissioner Rod Stowe said the guides provide specific information to help businesses operating in the electrical and whitegoods; travel and accommodation; personal services; motor vehicle sales and repair; and, rental car industries.

“The guides contain practical advice and common examples of situations where the ACL applies, with particular reference to the legal rights and obligations created by consumer guarantees.

“The guides supplement a series of general ACL guides for business and legal practitioners, also available from Fair Trading.”

Mr Stowe said it was important for businesses to understand their responsibilities under the ACL.

“Guidance is also provided about appropriate remedies when consumers suffer losses associated with a service provider’s failure to meet consumer guarantees, for example, providing a service within a specified timeframe.”

The ACL is Australia’s national consumer law, replacing previous consumer protection laws in the Commonwealth, states and territories.

The ACL applies at the Commonwealth level and in each state and territory.

The new guide is available at the Fair Trading website:

[http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/biz_res/ftweb/pdfs/About us/Publications/ACL_industry_guides/FT471_Personal_Services_ACL.pdf](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/biz_res/ftweb/pdfs/About_us/Publications/ACL_industry_guides/FT471_Personal_Services_ACL.pdf)

Redundant Fuel Tank Catches Fire at Disused Mobil Oil Refinery in S.A.

Fire crews are mopping up after a blaze in a redundant fuel tank at the former Port Stanvac oil refinery site, south of Adelaide.

The fire occurred in a tank that was being demolished as part of the works to demolish the former Adelaide Refinery’s infrastructure, which has been underway since August 2012.

The fire was threatening other fuel tanks nearby - and fire crews focused their attention on preventing the fire from spreading.

Smoke, which was heavily present in the area has now cleared.

Source: perthnow.com.au



What they meant to say:
Fire extinguisher.



The collapsed fuel tank at the former Mobil refinery at Port Stanvac. Picture: Roger Wyman. Source: News Limited



Photo: en.trend.az

Explosion Shakes Uzbek Chemical Plant

An explosion shook a workshop for acetylene production at the NavoiAzot chemical plant, resulting in the death of at least one worker and injuring several, Ozodlik Radio reports.

According to the radio station, two explosions were heard at the plant, but the city administration confirmed only one explosion and refused to elaborate. Two hospitals in Navoi Region confirmed that several individuals, who sustained injuries from the explosion, were hospitalized, but refused to provide numbers. Several wounded workers are reported to be in post-operation stage; according to unofficial information, one person died.

NavoiAzot is produces nitrogen fertilizers: ammonium nitrate, carbamide and ammonium sulfate and more that are used in various sectors of Uzbek economy – production of non-ferrous metals, light industry, furniture production, electronics, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and aviation. Navoi Chemical Combine (currently NavoiAzot) has started to produce output since 1964 and it is the largest chemical enterprise in Uzbekistan.

Blast Kills Worker at Refinery Owned by Chilean State Oil Company

An explosion at a refinery owned by Chile's state oil company ENAP has killed one worker who died in the blast while performing maintenance with other workers.

The company said the explosion at Aconcagua refinery was caused by a sulphuric acid leak inside the refinery's hydrogen plant. At least three people were taken to hospitals with injuries.

Source: Canadian Manufacturing



1-Bromopropane (1-BP) is a solvent that is used in degreasing, dry cleaning, spray adhesives, and aerosol solvents. Occupational exposure to 1-BP has been linked to neurological illnesses. Animal studies show that 1-BP may also cause cancer and reproductive disorders. Controls and personal protective equipment are available to protect workers from 1-BP exposure. **CLICK HERE (pdf) to download the alert.**

http://www.safteng.net/images/stories/PDF/osha_3676.pdf

This month my thanks goes to Don Johnson, Peter Hunt, John Baker and Scott Young.

If you have any parts that might be useful or of interest to Members they would be much appreciated! Please forward to: robhogan@tpg.com.au

HSE: Explosion in an Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) Fertilizer Transfer Pump

A dangerous incident occurred at a facility storing urea ammonium nitrate (UAN) fertilizer in solution. Following a tanker loading operation a UAN transfer pump was inadvertently left running. The transfer pump continued to run for several hours until an explosion occurred. Fragments were projected over an extended distance and widespread damage resulted. One fragment punctured a nearby gas oil tank resulting in a substantial loss of product. In solution UAN is normally considered low hazard. However, when the water in UAN evaporates, residue may include concentrated ammonium nitrate and urea. When sensitised or during decomposition, concentrated ammonium nitrate may become unstable and/or explosive. UAN pumps left operating for extended periods or left running against a blocked discharge have been known to detonate. In this incident the pump was left running, creating conditions for forming the concentrated ammonium nitrate and urea deposits which led to this explosion.

Operators are advised to ensure that UAN transfer pumps are fitted with suitable protection, for example a cut-out that operates in the event of high temperature and/or no or low liquid flow. It would also be advisable to instigate systems of work requiring checks by site staff to ensure that transfer pumps are switched off on completion of tanker loading or other transfer operations.

Source: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/alerts/ureaammoniumnitrate.htm>

Chemical Safety Board Lists OSHA Combustible Dust Rule as the First 'most wanted' Safety Reform

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board has declared that the response by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to seven longstanding recommendations – on combustible dust, fuel gas and the Process Safety Management standard – to be “unacceptable.”

The Board also voted to make the adoption of a combustible dust standard for general industry to be the first priority in the CSB's recently established “Most Wanted Safety Improvements” program, which will result in stepped-up advocacy for the measure.

Read more: <http://www.csb.gov/events/csb-public-meeting-to-vote-on-key-safety-recommendations-and-initiate-most-wanted-program/>



Transport of Dangerous Goods Code to be Updated with International Best Practice: National Transport Commission

The laws governing the transport of dangerous goods such as chemicals on road and rail will be updated in line with the latest international guidelines, in a package of proposed amendments released by the National Transport Commission (NTC) for public consultation today on August 6.

NTC Chief Executive and Commissioner, Mr. Paul Retter AM said that dangerous goods comprise 8%* of total freight transported by road and rail in Australia.

“Dangerous goods can present an acute risk to life, health, property and the environment, especially when being transported,” said Mr. Retter.

“The changes we have proposed will ensure that dangerous goods continue to be safely and efficiently transported in Australia.”

Some of the changes proposed in the package include:

- Updating markings and labels to be consistent with regulations for air and sea transport;
- Improving certainty for business by incorporating approved exemptions into law;
- A clear requirement for prime contractors and drivers to carry transport documents and emergency information so that they are easily locatable in the event of an emergency; and
- Introducing the requirement for prepared emergency plans to be followed in an emergency situation.

The Australian Dangerous Goods Code 7th Edition (ADG7) regulates the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail.

“With many goods being imported and exported within Australia every day, it is important to minimise inconsistencies when transporting dangerous goods, nationally, internationally and across the different transport modes. This improves Australia’s global competitiveness and brings Australia into line with international best practice,” said Mr. Retter.

ADG7 is based on United Nations (UN) Model Regulations, which are internationally accepted as the principal technical standards underpinning the transport of dangerous goods. The UN Model Regulations are updated periodically, and this amendment package proposes changes to bring ADG7 in line with the latest editions (16th and 17th) of the UN Model Regulations.

“In addition to the updates based on the latest UN Regulations, since ADG7 was introduced in 2007 our stakeholders have identified a number of issues, including corrections, technical updates and clarifications of existing legislative requirements. These also form part of the amendment package released today.” ADG7 provides detailed technical specifications, requirements and recommendations applicable to the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail, including requirements concerning classification, packaging, marking and labelling and documentation. The amendments were developed in consultation with key industry representatives and the Transport of Dangerous Goods Maintenance Group. This Group includes representatives from each state and territory, the Commonwealth, regulators of dangerous goods transport for air and sea, and emergency services. Items classified as dangerous goods can range from everyday household goods such as cosmetics and cleaning products, to fuels and industrial chemicals.

Downloads:

Transport of Dangerous Goods Laws Amendment Package No.2 (Explanation of changes document)

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/DocView.aspx?DocumentId=2414>

Model Amendment Regulation Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail Package No.2

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/DocView.aspx?DocumentId=2415>

More information about the amendment package can also be found in the Dangerous Goods section of the NTC website.

<http://www.ntc.gov.au/viewpage.aspx?documentid=2417>

Combustible Dust: An Insidious Hazard

Dust from industrial processes can become the fuel for devastating explosions.

If you are interested, the U.S.C.S.B. investigations of the following explosions can be seen at the link below:

- **[AL Solutions Fatal Dust Explosion](#)**
- **[Imperial Sugar Company Dust Explosion and Fire](#)**
- **[Combustible Dust Hazard Investigation](#)**
- **[Hayes Lemmerz Dust Explosions and Fire](#)**
- **[CTA Acoustics Dust Explosion and Fire](#)**
- **[West Pharmaceutical Services Dust Explosion and Fire](#)**

<http://www.csb.gov/videos/combustible-dust-an-insidious-hazard/>



Image courtesy
of www.usnews.com

Florida Propane Plant Blasts

Equipment failure and human error likely caused propane tank cylinders to explode at a central Florida refilling plant.

There were 53,000 20-pound cylinders of propane at the facility -- more than a million pounds in all and firefighters immediately set up a half-mile evacuation area around the plant. Trucks parked at the plant went up in fireballs as the cylinders they were carrying exploded.

There were 24 employees at work at the time of the blasts, according to Scott Brockelmeyer, a spokesman for Ferrellgas, the parent company of Blue Rhino. The blasts injured eight plant workers; there had been earlier reports of 15 missing workers, but all 15 were found safe - some had fled the scene; some drove themselves to hospitals.

The employees perform such tasks as refurbishing cylinders and loading them on pallets and vehicles. There were some management personnel on site as well.

The plant produces 2.3 million tanks annually, and serves all of Florida, southern Georgia and southern Alabama. It opened in 2004. Brockelmeyer would not speculate on the cause of the explosion and declined to comment on the fire chief's statement that equipment failure and human error likely caused the incident.

Source: Ed Payne, CNN

See Video and Comment:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4s3uu1qzdo>

Chlorine Spill Contained Gordon N.S.W.

The Environment Protection Authority, Hazmat, Ku-ring-gai Council and emergency services have worked together to contain 5000L of chlorine spilled from a private truck that sprung a leak. The chlorine ran into the stormwater drains, which flows down to Blackbutt Creek at Minnamurra Avenue.

HAZMAT and Fire and Rescue crews have dammed the creek in a number of locations in Minnamurra Avenue and have been on site pumping the contaminated water out.

EPA and HAZMAT have now left the site and the Fire and Rescue Spill team will continue to pump out water.

There has been local impact to vertebrates and invertebrates in the creek with visible deaths to eels and worms.

Council will continue to monitor the situation and undertake water testing over coming days and weeks.

Source: <http://www.kmc.nsw.gov.au>

What is Poisonous Gas?

The use of poisonous gas and other chemical weapons was banned by the Geneva Protocol following World War I, but not all countries follow that mandate.

Unconfirmed reports indicate the Syrian government may be using poisonous gas against rebels in the ongoing civil insurrection that has engulfed the Middle Eastern country. Syria is widely recognized as having a large stockpile of chemical and biological weapons.

Effects of nerve agents

Because the alleged poisonous gas attacks in Syria are unconfirmed, it can't be determined what type of poisonous gas (if any) is being used. However, Dr. Khaled al-Doumi, director of a medical center near the site of the alleged attack, told Al Jazeera, "Medically speaking, the symptoms indicate that poisoning was a result of phosphorous compounds that could be caused by organic insecticides or sarin gas."

Sarin gas is a man-made, lethal toxin with no color, taste or odor; it can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin or eyes. Sarin is a nerve agent that works on the central nervous system and prevents the body from "turning off" glands and muscles, so these are constantly stimulated. Even a small drop of sarin on the skin can cause someone to twitch and sweat profusely.

People exposed to large amounts of sarin quickly lose control over their bodily functions and, if not treated immediately, can fall into a coma or succumb to respiratory failure.

Organic insecticides, often referred to as organophosphates, also act on the nervous system in a way that's similar to sarin, causing overstimulation and neurological dysfunction. Death can come quickly, generally due to respiratory failure.

Source: www.mnn.com

Hwaseong chemical plant explosion

Two workers were killed and one injured Friday when a chemical tank exploded at a plant in the southern city of Hwaseong.

The 60,000-liter outdoor storage tank containing some 20,000 liters of sodium aluminate exploded at the chemical factory in Hwaseong, 60 kilometers south of Seoul.

Police said they suspect the explosion occurred when the three workers were doing welding work to install a handrail next to the tank.

The explosion might have occurred when the sodium aluminate, which is used for many industrial and technical applications, came into contact with the heat source, police officers said.

Source: Yonhap News Agency



Photo: Marijus
Auruskevicius/Shutterstock





Mobil in N.Z. Fights Waterfront Cleanup Bill

A petrol company says it should not have to pay clean-up costs for decades of petrochemical pollution on prime waterfront land.

The Auckland Waterfront Development Agency claims Mobil is liable for \$17.9 million in clean-up costs for two sites in Wynyard Quarter, part of the former tank farm.

The sites were used by Mobil or related companies for petrochemical storage and more recently other bulk chemicals and lubricants.

Both parties agree the site is now significantly polluted but disagree on the contamination's source and Mobil's liability for the clean-up.

Some of the pollution comes from fill material used when the land was originally reclaimed, including waste from the old Auckland gas works.

It was already heavily contaminated from reclamation fill, which included lead, arsenic and cyanide pollution. "This was not a pristine green meadow that somehow has been destroyed by sub-surface contamination."

Source and Photo: The New Zealand Herald

N.Z. Workplace Health & Safety Reform

The Government has announced the most significant reform of New Zealand's workplace health and safety system in 20 years. 'Working Safer: a blueprint for health and safety at work' is the Government's response to the recommendations of the Independent Taskforce on Workplace Health and Safety set up in April 2012, partially in response to the Pike River Coal Mine disaster.

The reform package is aimed at reducing New Zealand's workplace injury and death toll by 25 per cent by 2020. 'Working Safer' will require leadership and action from business, workers and Government to achieve this goal.

The reform will see the Health and Safety at Work Bill replace the Health and Safety in Employment Act. This will be introduced into Parliament in December 2013. Regulations will also be developed to support the bill, and we will be consulting with stakeholders as part of that work.

The new law and key supporting regulations are expected to start coming into force from the end of 2014. For more information goto:

<http://www.mbie.govt.nz/what-we-do/workplace-health-and-safety-reform>



US – Flash Fire at Trucking Company

A flash fire at a Hammond trucking company destroyed buildings and equipment and sent black smoke billowing, darkening the skies of Hammond and East Chicago. Two employees at Bulk Express were working with a torch when a possible leak from a nearby propane tank ignited, engulfing the entire work area in flames. The two employees ran to safety but the fire spread quickly, destroying two buildings, a tanker truck and two truck cabs. Two other tanker trucks and two pickup trucks were heavily damaged.

Hammond fire-fighters had a difficult time containing the blaze, and special equipment from the BP Whiting Refinery fire department was called in. The BP fire-fighters arrived with apparatus that uses foam to smother fires and were successful in containing it. One Bulk Express building was left standing after the inferno and did not appear to be damaged, Smith said. Bulk Express is a liquid bulk carrier, specializing in coal tar products, asphalt products and oils.

Source: http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/lake/hammond/fire-smoke-darken-north-hammond-sky/article_08f4cd6a-2706-57d6-8b11-5a6b9ea09a89.html

Barrage of Flying Gas Cylinders in U.K.

A plumber died and six other workers were seriously injured by a barrage of flying gas cylinders. In a prosecution brought by the HSE against three companies for safety breaches, St Albans Crown Court heard that 80 cylinders, nearly two metres high and each weighing 142 kg, were stored without their safety-critical protection caps and left without being properly secured in racks. HSE found that one or more of these cylinders was de-stabilised and probably fell over, causing its unprotected valve to shear off near the cylinder neck. This released an uncontrolled jet of liquified argonite gas under high pressure [equivalent to some 300 bar] the force of which caused the cylinder to move, colliding with others. These, in turn, were also knocked over and sustained similar damage.

A chain reaction developed rapidly and for several minutes shocked and terrified workers desperately sought shelter as they endured a barrage of heavy cylinders rocketing around them. This continued until 66 of the 80 cylinders had been discharged. Some of the cylinders travelled at estimated speeds of up to 170mph and developed sufficient energy to penetrate walls and ceiling voids, travelling into more remote parts of the building.

Read More: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2013/rnn-se-rocketing-gas-cylinder.htm>



Cylinder with missing valve

See Video and
hear
Firefighter's
Story:

http://videos.kansas.com/vmix_hosted_apps/p/media?id=166270271



Travis Heying/The Wichita Eagle

Firefighters Remain Overnight at Scene of Biodiesel Plant Fire in Kansas

Firefighters were scheduled to keep watch overnight at the site of a fire in Sedgwick that apparently destroyed a biodiesel plant earlier in the day.

Sedgwick firefighters remained at the scene to watch for hot spots from the fire at the plant operated by Green Energy Products, just south of the Harvey County line.

Crews from five jurisdictions responded to the fire and had it under control by noon, officials said. But early on they faced an unpredictable situation with burning biodiesel, corn oil and methanol. Some cylinders and other vessels exploded initially, Sedgwick County Fire Chief Gary Curmode said. "The first hour and a half was pretty dangerous," he said. "Fires involving tanks containing fuels and chemicals are very hazardous."

Fire sent flames and black smoke high into the air at one point and caused the metal building's roof to collapse.

About a dozen people were in the building at the time of the fire, Hoffman said. There were no injuries.

"The good news is the building is designed to contain this kind of thing," he said. "We're just grateful (no one is injured). Not even a scratch."

Crews had to be cautious at mid-morning when fire was coming from at least two collapsed tanks that were leaking chemicals. Fire crews from McConnell Air Force Base and the HollyFrontier oil refinery in El Dorado were called in to put blankets of foam on the fire.

"They are the only ones in the area that have the foam to use in any quantities," Curmode said.

To keep tanks cool, crews poured water on them, including a 5,000-gallon tank of methanol, he said.

More than 40 firefighters worked the fire, Curmode said. Newton and Halstead joined Sedgwick County, McConnell and the El Dorado oil refinery crew.

About a year ago, Healy Biodiesel and WB Services merged and established Green Energy, according to Sedgwick city officials.

Read more here:

<http://www.kansas.com/2013/07/30/2914396/biodiesel-plant-in-sedgwick-catches.html#storylink=cpy>

Louisiana Town Flees Toxic Chemicals Leaking from Train Wreck

The derailment claimed between 23 and 26 of the train's 76 total cars, according to KATC. Of those that derailed, 14 are carrying harmful or toxic substances. Of those 14, three are leaking – one is leaking lubricant oil, another is leaking Doecanol, and a third is leaking Lye.

While Lubricant oil and Dodecanol – a tasteless, colorless alcohol – are relatively harmless, Lye is highly corrosive and poses an immediate danger.

‘The cars that derailed include lube oil and other products. There was some vinyl chloride on there,’ Union Pacific spokesperson Raquel Espinoza told KATC.

Two other cars carrying vinyl chloride – a highly toxic, flammable and carcinogenic substance – are damaged, but it is not clear if they are leaking.

‘Vinyl chloride is a colourless organic gas with a mild, sweet odour,’ according to the Environmental Protection Agency. Used in making plastics and vinyl, exposure to the toxin can result in symptoms ranging from irritation in the eyes and respiratory tract to liver problems, cancer, birth defects and reproductive problems, according to the government agency.

As a precaution, all 101 homes within a mile of the derailment have been evacuated, officials announced.

‘Anytime you have chemicals leaking into the environment, that's a serious issue,’ Jindal said. ‘Nobody knows the extent of the damage, we'll get that in the next 24 hours.’

Roads near the site are expected to be closed for at least two days, according to reports. Read more:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2384699/Over-100-homes-evacuated-terrified-residents-Louisiana-town-flee-toxic-chemicals-leaking-train-wreck.html#ixzz2clhIHE2J>

Static Electricity at Oil Storage Facility

U.S.A. Fire and rescue crews spent an afternoon and evening monitoring a Marathon oil storage facility in Roanoke County after an employee noticed a spark inside a fuel tank.

Interested? Goto: <http://www.roanoke.com/news/2161294-12/problem-at-oil-storage-facility-prompts-evacuations-in.html>



Photo:
www.dailymail.co.uk

Sulfur Dioxide Tank at the Port of Tampa Caught Fire Twice in Less than a Week

For the second time in less than a week, Tampa Fire Rescue put out flames at the same Port of Tampa fertilizer tank. The tank is owned by Gulf Sulphur.

Now, firefighters and the fire marshal are closely watching as company workers offload the sulfur so the tank can be thoroughly inspected. The process is expected to take a minimum of three days.

Once empty, the tank must pass a complete inspection and must submit a certificate to the fire marshal's office.

Last week, the fire at the tank prompted the department to issue warnings about potentially harmful fumes. Residents in south Tampa and Harbour Island were even told to stay indoors if possible because the fumes could cause eye, skin and throat irritations.

Ladder trucks are out spraying water into the tank. Bennefield described the sulphur as being molten. Bennefield explained that the sulphur is kept warm by a system of heated coils that are installed around the tank.

The cause of the fire has not been determined. The Port remained open through the ordeal.

Read more:

http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region_tampa/officials-responding-to-fire-at-port-of-tampa-fumes-could-cause-eye-and-skin-irritation#ixzz2cII9HvEA

Watch Video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUeVIA69_AY

Four Die of Toxic Gas Leak in India

Superintendent of Police Jagat Singh said the leakage was reported from an underground tank which was part of the water purifying set-up of the factory, situated in Agra Chowk area of the district.

While two employees were trying to fix it, the gas leak intensified, leading to their death.

Two other workers, who rushed to help their colleagues in trouble, also inhaled the poisonous gas and died, the SP said.

Source: <http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/india/four-die-of-toxic-gas-leak-in-haryana-26261.html>





Unidentified Chemical Spill Melbourne

The spill at the Peter Mac Cancer Centre caused part of the hospital to be locked down with 10 fire trucks on the scene. 29 workers were evacuated from the Research Laboratory at the Institute following a strong chemical odour.

One person attended hospital with an eye irritation and 8 others have reported headaches, the MFB have confirmed.

Firefighters have entered the centre to investigate the spill after a staff member alerted security after 12.30pm. It is believed the spill was contained to one room but the staff member who found it was taken to the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

MFB Firefighters monitoring the area have reported that atmospheric results are back to normal

The incident took 4 hours to bring under control.

Source and Photo: Herald Sun News

Hazardous Materials Incident Salt Lake City

Ten people were hospitalized and dozens of others sickened after a hazardous materials incident at Temple Square. “It just started slightly and then got stronger and stronger,” said Susan Lowe, an LDS missionary in the visitors centre. “Little scratchy throat, then the alarm went off.”

Salt Lake City firefighters said a chemical cloud moved through the ventilation system, sickening about 50 people. “A strong smell came out of the air vents,” said David Gillette, the LDS Mission President for Temple Square. “It did smell to me like chlorine. So we went around trying to find the source, if there was a spill or something, and then all of a sudden the alarm went off.”

Someone had pulled the fire alarm and dozens of people evacuated. Salt Lake City police and firefighters shut down South Temple from Main Street to West Temple, including halting TRAX service. Half of Temple Square was also evacuated, said fire department spokesman Jasen Asay.

Firefighters said a janitor poured chlorine into an empty container that still had remnants of sulfuric acid still inside. The remnant of the acid and the chlorine mixed to create thionyl chloride.

Thionyl chloride is described as a sometimes colourless, fuming liquid with a suffocating odour. In some cases, it can be lethal.

“These ten people have had symptoms of coughing, some burning and a little bit of nausea,” said Asay. “The worker, the janitor who combined the chemicals was one of the ten. He had the worst symptoms but they were all transported in minor condition.”

Source and Video: <http://fox13now.com/2013/08/22/lds-church-history-museum-evacuated-due-to-hazardous-materials-incident/>



Taiwan Investigates Benzene Contaminated Food Boxes

Production at a Taiwanese printing firm has been suspended after employees were found to have been using solvent wipes containing benzene to wipe oil stains off takeaway food boxes.

According to the country's Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an investigation by the Bureau of Health in Taichung revealed that employees at the company had been using the wipes before printing on the paper boxes used for take away orders by several chain food stores in the country.

Source:

<http://chemicalwatch.com>

Chlorine Turns Toxic at U.S.A. High School

Wadsworth High School and the attached Wadsworth Community Center were evacuated after an accidental mix of chemicals created toxic chlorine gas.

Wadsworth Fire Chief Carl Rommel said the toxic gas was created by the mixture of chlorine and muriatic acid — chemicals used to treat the swimming pool — that occurred when the worker who delivered the chemicals accidentally poured the chlorine into the wrong tank. The mixture creates a gas more toxic than mustard gas, which was used in World War I and banned afterward as an inhumane weapon of war.

The worker was taken to Summa Wadsworth-Rittman Hospital after inhaling some of the gas.

Rommel said about 300 people were evacuated from the community center, senior center and high school.

Source and Photo: Medina Gazette, Dan Pompili

Unsafe Welding Led to Fatal Gulf Accident

A consultant's report for a Texas-based company says a deadly 2012 explosion on its Gulf of Mexico oil platform off the Louisiana coast happened when workers for a subcontractor used unsafe welding practices.

ABSG Consulting did the study and report for Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations, which released the report and also made it available on its website. Three Filipino workers died in the November accident, which occurred at a time when production was shut down and a construction project was underway on the platform, according to the report.

A series of explosions occurred when workers were welding a pipe leading to a tank, known as a "wet oil tank," according to the report. "The WOT contained hydrocarbons, and the piping leading to it had not been isolated and made safe for welding," the ABSG report said.

The report said Grand Isle and another contractor overseeing work on the platform, identified as Wood Group PSN, did not properly carry out welding processes, sometimes referred to as "hot work." It said Grand Isle and DNR failed to stop work when "unexpected conditions" — including the smell of gas — arose.

The consultant also recommended that Black Elk provide additional oversight for construction activities on platforms and discourage the use of "hot work" on platforms.

Read more here: <http://www.sunherald.com/2013/08/21/4891323/report-unsafe-welding-led-to-fatal.html#storylink=cpy>