



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

June 2013



An explosion at the Williams Olefins chemical plant in Louisiana, killed two people. A day later, an explosion at another Louisiana chemical plant left one worker dead.
Photo: BEVIL KNAPP / EPA

Watch the Graphic Videos:

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=%2Bchemical%2Bplant%2Bexplosion%2Bin%2Bgeismar%2BLouisiana&aq=%2Bchemical%2Bplant%2Bexplosion%2Bin%2Bgeismar%2BLouisiana&gs_l=youtube.12...2207.2207.0.3125.1.1.0.0.0.217.217.2-1.1.0...0.0...1ac.2.11.youtube.a0S-rfTsSVg

Chemical Plant Explosions in Louisiana

State and federal investigators in Louisiana are working to uncover what caused fatal blasts at two different chemical plants in the span of two days.

The second explosion took place at the CF Industries plant in Donaldsonville, a small town along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. As of Saturday afternoon, one person had died in the blast and seven others were injured.

The day before, an explosion at the Williams Olefins plant in Geismar killed two people and wounded dozens of others. The two facilities are a few miles apart in a region dense with refineries and petrochemical plants, a corridor between Baton Rouge and New Orleans that's been called "Cancer Alley" and "Bhopal on the bayou."

The Donaldson incident happened while nitrogen was being offloaded to the plant from an 18-wheeler to a vessel used to distribute the nitrogen to different parts of the plant. "That vessel is highly pressurized. For whatever reason, that vessel failed" causing the explosion, Trooper Jared Sandifer, a spokesman for the Louisiana State Police, told the Los Angeles Times. CF Industries Holdings Inc., which runs the plant, specializes in the production of nitrogen and phosphorus, two major components of fertilizer.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as state agencies, will look into the incident. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our employees."

Friday's deadly blast wasn't the first at the company's Donaldsonville plant - three workers were killed and nine injured by an explosion and fire at the facility in May 2000.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as state agencies, will look into the incident.

Source: Michael Mello, Los Angeles Times

AIDGC/AGM

Sydney

with

Keynote Speaker

Peter Hunt

July 26

Biodiesel: How
to make it and
what goes
wrong

AIDGC Annual
Conference

Sydney

September 27

At Least 74 Texas
Sites Report
Large Stores of
Potentially
Explosive
Ammonium
Nitrate

To read this article:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/west-explosion/headlines/20130608-at-least-74-texas-sites-report-large-stores-of-potentially-explosive-ammonium-nitrate.ece>

Cause of Texas Fertilizer Plant Fire and Explosion may never be Known

A malfunctioning golf cart, a faulty electrical system or even arson could have led to the fire that triggered the deadly explosion of a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, but federal and state officials said Thursday that their \$1-million investigation had yet to find the cause.

An estimated 28 to 34 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer exploded in two stages, separated by a fraction of a second, causing damage across a 37-block area and throwing debris as far as 2 1/2 miles, according to officials from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office.

Officials refused to comment on whether West paramedic Bryce Reed, who was arrested last week for possessing bomb-making materials, had been cleared of involvement. But the blaze and resulting explosion remain a criminal investigation, Champion said. A golf cart was parked in the seed room where the fire broke out, and Brian Hoback, another ATF investigator, said the carts had been known to start fires when their batteries or capacitors failed. But only the cart's brake pad and axle were recovered, not enough to implicate or eliminate it as a cause.

The fire also could have originated in the plant's 120-volt electrical system. A more powerful 480-volt system for heavy equipment was eliminated as a cause, as was smoking, spontaneous ignition, weather and other possibilities.

Though the cause of the fire is a mystery, the resulting explosion is better understood.

The ammonium nitrate was held in a wooden bin near the seed room. Kelly Kistner, lead investigator for the fire marshal, said the conflagration raised the temperature of the ammonium nitrate, making it less stable and subjecting it to increased pressure. Then some type of "impact" triggered the explosion, he said.

The explosion created a crater 93 feet wide and 10 feet deep, displacing tens of thousands of pounds of earth. The detonation was equal to 15,000 to 20,000 pounds of TNT, smaller than an atomic bomb but much larger than most military ordnance. An additional 30 tons of ammonium nitrate in the plant and another 100 tons in a nearby rail car did not detonate.

About \$500,000 was spent on heavy equipment to dig out the explosion site as part of the investigation, which was conducted by 104 officials from local, state and federal agencies.

Source: Ralph Vartabedian, Los Angeles Times



Explosion in Key China Gas Pipeline

An explosion at a major natural gas pipeline in China's eastern Jiangxi province injured two people and disrupted the supply of gas - supplies delivered through the damaged section of pipeline have been stopped and the government is investigating the cause of the explosion, Xinhua News Agency said, adding that the explosion knocked down people hundreds of meters away. The section is part of the second phase of China's West to East pipeline, which stretches 8,704 km from the northwestern Xinjiang region to Hong Kong.

The pipeline has an annual capacity of 30 billion cubic meters, according to the website of its operator, China National Petroleum Corporation.

The government is investigating the cause of the explosion.

Source: Wayne Ma, via HydroCarbon Processing and Dow Jones Newswires

Woodside Failed to Note Safety Flaw

The failure of a critical piece of safety equipment designed to prevent potential explosions at Woodside Petroleum's Vincent oilfield in Western Australia was only identified during a visit by a third party.

According to the latest annual offshore performance report from the federal offshore oil and gas safety regulator, the failure of an oil mist detector at Vincent -- which is Woodside's largest single source of oil production -- was a result of incorrect wiring and an equipment design that did not meet specifications.

The oil mist detector is designed to detect a build-up of dangerous concentrations of oil particles in the atmosphere. If left undetected, an accumulation of oil mist can trigger sudden fires and explosions.

The report from NOPESMA said the failure of the detector was only noticed when inspectors from a classification society -- an independent body contracted by Woodside to verify the strength and integrity of vessels and their on-board systems -- identified the problem during a visit.

The failure comes amid heightened sensitivities in the oil and gas industry around safety and the environment following the high-profile Montara oil platform disaster in the Timor Sea and the Deepwater Horizon tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

**Read the latest edition of NOPSEMA's Annual Offshore
Performance Report**

<http://www.nopsema.gov.au/resources/industry-performance/>



The scene at the former Chevron oil refinery in Rhoscrowther, where four people lost their lives in June 2011

Families still waiting for answers two years after Chevron refinery disaster

Two years after the tragic incident at the former Chevron oil plant in Pembrokeshire in which four people died, the families of those affected are still waiting for answers about what happened. It was the UK's worst refinery disaster for almost four decades, claiming the lives of three men and one woman. But two years on after the tragic incident at the former Chevron oil plant in Pembrokeshire, inquests into the four deaths have still not been held. A full hearing into how each of the co-workers died cannot be held until a full inquiry into the accident has been completed. An inquiry is continuing into the cause of the explosion, which Chevron said happened while a storage tank was being taken out of service for maintenance work. Chevron, which immediately after the incident flew in experts from the US, has said the investigation will be a lengthy process.

Jane James, spokeswoman for Chevron last night said: "Chevron confirms that it continues to co-operate fully with the police and the HSE on their joint investigation into the incident of June 2 2011." Source: WalesonLine.co.uk

Laboratory Safety Videos

These laboratory safety videos cover common laboratory situations and equipment. By the UCSD Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry. These videos are not intended to replace formal instruction or a safety training program.

Including:

A Day in the Lab

Basic Fume Hood Air Flow and Operation

Experimenting with Danger (chem. Labs)

How to Handle Pyrophoric Reagents

Find them at:

<http://blink.ucsd.edu/safety/research-lab/laboratory/videos.html>

N.S.W Laboratory Workers Exposed to Toxic Chemical

Two lab workers from a Sydney nuclear facility are in hospital after exposure to sodium cyanide. A container holding the chemical spilled on the workers' legs, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) said in a statement. Source: The Australian Business

Corporate Members

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

AECOM

Kevin Blackie
61 7 3553 3449
Kevin.Blackie@aecom.com

ENLOG

Robert Hoogervorst
07 3260 2366

Ovivo Australia Pty.
Ltd.

Shannon Ballard
+61 2 9542 2366

Store-Safe Pty Ltd
Grant Breeze
02) 9569 2122

VOPAK Terminals
Sydney Pty. Ltd.
Nathan Barnes
02 9666 4455

CSB Releases New 3-Disc Safety Video DVD Set; Free of Charge

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board has announced the release of a new three-disc, single-box set containing all safety videos produced to date for completed CSB accident investigations. The DVD set is available free of charge and may be ordered by filling out the [DVD request form at http://www.CSB.gov](http://www.CSB.gov).

CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "The CSB Safety Videos are known around the world for their forceful depiction of the events that lead to deadly releases, explosions and fires, and their clear explanations of the root causes of the accidents – all derived from the high-quality detailed investigations carried out by CSB staff.

Also Available at :

<http://www.csb.gov.au> and <http://www.youtube.com/uscsb>

DISC 1

1. **Death in the Oilfield - An oil tank explosion kills three workers performing hot work.**
2. **Fire from Ice - Fire cripples a refinery after propane leaks from a frozen dead leg.**
3. **Static Sparks Explosion in Kansas - Static electricity ignites a storage tank, forcing a community to evacuate.**
4. **Emergency in Apex - A North Carolina town is evacuated when fire engulfs a hazardous waste depot.**
5. **Anatomy of a Disaster - A massive explosion kills 15 and injures 180 at the BP Texas City refinery.**
6. **Reactive Hazards - Four major accidents illustrate the dangers from uncontrolled chemical reactions.**
7. **Public Worker Safety - Two public employees burn to death performing unregulated hot work.**
8. **Explosion at Formosa Plastics (Illinois) - A preventable human error leads to a vinyl chloride explosion, killing five.**
9. **Hazards of Nitrogen Asphyxiation - Two contract workers suffocate while servicing a refinery process vessel.**
10. **Fire at Formosa Plastics (Texas) - Without safeguards, a small collision leads to a massive process fire.**
11. **Dangers of Propylene Cylinders - Gas cylinders, rocketing from a fire, endanger a St. Louis neighbourhood.**
12. **Ethylene Oxide Explosion at Sterigenics - At a sterilization plant, bypassing a safety interlock has catastrophic results.**
13. **Dangers of Flammable Gas Accumulation - When acetylene explodes inside a shed, three workers lose their lives.**
14. **Preventing Harm from NaHS - Sodium hydrosulfide may create deadly hazards at pulp mills, mines, and tanneries.**



This month my thanks for their contributions go to Peter Hunt, Don Johnson 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



Police believe a gas bottle exploded at a petrol station in Margate this morning. Picture: Nikki Davis-Jones

DISC 2

1. **Fire in the Valley** - A runaway reaction at a pesticide plant causes a catastrophic explosion and fire.
2. **Deadly Practices** - Fires and explosions result from intentional releases of natural gas into work areas.
3. **Dangers of Hot Work** - Key lessons to prevent flammable vapour explosions caused by welding and cutting.
4. **No Escape: Dangers of Confined Spaces** - A chemical fire erupts deep in a hydroelectric plant tunnel, trapping five workers.
5. **No Place to Hang Out** - After two friends die, Mississippi teens investigate the dangers of oil and gas sites.
6. **Inferno: Explosion at Imperial Sugar** - Accumulations of sugar dust fuel massive explosions, killing 14 workers.
7. **Runaway: Explosion at T2 Laboratories** - A heat-producing chemical reaction runs out of control, killing four workers.
8. **Combustible Dust: An Insidious Hazard** - Dust from industrial processes can become the fuel for devastating explosions.
9. **Emergency Preparedness** - Lessons from ten years of CSB investigations on preparing for chemical disasters.
10. **Half an Hour to Tragedy** - Remaining too close to a propane leak proves fatal to responders and others.
11. **Blast Wave in Danvers** - Solvent vapour explodes at a Boston-area ink plant, devastating a neighbourhood.

DISC 3

1. **Deadly Contract** - An explosion and fire in Waipahu, Hawaii kills five workers during an operation to dispose of contraband fireworks performed under a federal contract.
 2. **Inherently Safer: The Future of Risk Reduction** - An examination of the concept of inherent safety and its application across industry.
 3. **Hotwork: Hidden Hazards** - Welding on top of a storage tank containing flammable vapour leads to tragic consequences.
 4. **Iron in the Fire** - Three separate iron dust fires occur in 2011 at the Hoeganaes plant in Gallatin, Tennessee.
 5. **Experimenting with Danger** - Serious accidents in academic laboratories happen while conducting chemical research.
 6. **Fatal Exposure: Tragedy at DuPont** - Three accidents occur over a 33-hour period at the DuPont plant in Belle, WV.
- Bonus Feature: About the CSB** - Describes how CSB investigations help to prevent major chemical accidents.

Gas Cylinder Explosion at Victorian Service Station

Seven people were injured when a gas leak caused an explosion at the Margate BP Service Station. Police said the explosion occurred in the rear of a ute.

Source: www.themercury.com.au

Q'land Men Drank Biodiesel Ingredient

Three young Queensland men who died of suspected methanol poisoning drank a batch of alcohol that was meant to be used in biodiesel, not for human consumption, a neighbour says.

Media reports say they drank a dodgy batch of home-brewed Italian spirit grappa at Mr. Lynam's parent's Ballandean property. But neighbour and winemaker Angelo Puglisi says the reports are wrong and the alcohol had been brewed by Joel Lynam's father for use in biofuel, not for human consumption. "This 'grappa' that everyone is talking about was being produced to make diesel and somehow these young fellas got hold of it," he told AAP.

The doctor treating sole survivor Josh Lynam, 26, who is in a serious but stable condition, said he may escape with minor eye damage.

Clinical pharmacologist Dr. Pillans said injuries for victims of methanol poisoning included blindness, nerve and brain damage and Parkinson's disease-like symptoms. He explained that methanol poisoning was treated by dialysis or by giving a patient hospital-grade alcohol, because it blocked the enzyme that is converting the methanol into formic acid.

Alcohol was usually administered through a drip, but Dr. Pillans said the hospital ran out so they had to feed Mr. Lynam vodka through a nasal-gastric tube.

Health Minister Lawrence Springborg said a police investigation was underway and it was too early to speculate on how the four men were poisoned.

Source: Sydney Morning Herald



Service Station Association EMagazine

Is now available for download at:

http://www.ssa.org.au/magazine/2013_winter/index.html

NICNAS Chemical Gazette: June, 2013

Is now available for download from:

http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_June_2013.asp

This is NOT the Most Efficient Way to Check for a Gas Leak

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=1d8_1371006354#yMXZdVbHLJxhXMsY.01



Photo: The West Australian

Toxins at Mine Sites near W.A. Homes

Over 20 mine processing sites in Western Australia may contain toxins such as mercury, lead and arsenic. Two-thirds of the sites are within 25 kilometres of houses and towns.

Soil samples showed mercury, lead and arsenic at some sites that were only 400 metres from houses. Samples also showed asbestos and toxic tailings.

The Department of Environment and Conservation said 25 battery sites could be contaminated in the last seven years and warranted examination. The DEC, which regulates contaminated mine sites, said it was not its role to clean up polluted land owned by others, The West Australian reported. "Soil and possibly groundwater testing and investigations by the landowner would be required at these sites if a change in land use were proposed," a DEC spokeswoman said. She added there was no reason to believe materials or tailings were taken from any of the 25 sites.

A site in Coolgardie, about 558 kilometres east of Perth and only 1.4 kilometres from homes, had mercury in the soil while a site at Marvel Loch had arsenic four kilometres from homes.

Dwellers and builders have been using lead tailings in Northampton for 30 years after the battery closed. They did not know about its toxicity.

The West Australian disclosed fears of contamination six weeks ago at Northampton after lead tailings from the State Battery close by were used in the Mid West town.

The state government initiated a year-long project that checked every piece of land in the town. Goldcorp owns 20 out of the 25 battery sites after the State Government's then Department of Mines gave the rights to it. The mines minister has rights to two other sites.

Source: Malavika Santhebennur, Australian Mining

Petrol Fume Threat in Sydney Street

Vapours built up in sewer pipes beneath Loftus Avenue, Loftus, before blowing a sewer cover off .

Fire and Rescue NSW spokesman Superintendent Ian Krimmer said an exclusion zone remained in place overnight as crews continued to take air samples. "We're still getting readings on one section of the sewerage pipe," he told reporters.

The fumes had been identified as petrol and a nearby service station shut down as emergency workers searched for the source of the leak. Source: Industry Search

Norway Adds Chemical Labelling to Product Information Bank

Norway has updated its Product Information Bank (Pib), an online tool where users can search for information about chemical products. The updates include information on chemical labelling such as new pictograms and hazard statements regulated under CLP. Norway started applying CLP in June 2012.

To view the Product Register (in English) goto:

http://www.klif.no/seksjonsartikkel_41852.aspx

Uranium Guide Released by DMP/W.A.

An updated publication that provides an overview of the uranium industry in Western Australia has been released by the Department of Mines and Petroleum.

The 'Guide to Uranium in Western Australia' provides information covering a range of topics relevant to the introduction of uranium mining in Western Australia.

Aimed at the general public, the guide covers issues such as worker and community safety, environmental protection, international safeguards and transport requirements.

The updated version has been released following consultation with other agencies, including the Radiological Council.

To download a copy goto: <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/9997.aspx>

China: Chemical Refinery Blast

The two workers injured in the oil tank blast at a refinery in Dalian on Sunday have died, sources from the Dalian Administration of Work Safety said on Monday afternoon.

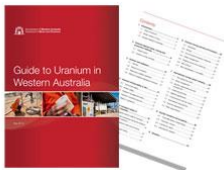
Four workers from a local construction engineering company were replacing the instrument platform of the No 939 oil tank, when there was a sudden explosion. The other two men are still missing, and the cause of the blast is being investigated.

According to Xinhua, three other tanks also caught fire.

There are 18 such tanks used to store phenylethane and other materials at the Dalian plant of the China National Petroleum Corp. The plant stopped manufacturing such products in March 2012, and the tanks were suspended from use two months later.

This year, in accordance with the risk management plan, the CNPC Dalian plant entrusted CNPC's seventh construction company to replace the instrument platform of the No 939 oil tank. The latter entrusted it to Dalian Linyuan Construction Engineering Co Ltd, which employed the four workers.

Source: www.ChinaDaily.com.cn



Residents look on after two diesel tanks exploded at an oil refinery of China National Petroleum Corporation. The fire was extinguished but smoke from the blaze raised pollution concerns among residents. Liu Debin / For China Daily



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

U.S.A. Dangerous Goods Advisory Council Submits 2 Globally Harmonized System Papers

DGAC has submitted two informal papers for consideration at the UN - one for the TDG and GHS Subcommittees and the second only for the GHS Subcommittee session.

The first paper discusses the Size of GHS Pictograms Relative to Transport Labels and Placards - goto:

http://www.dgac.org/sites/dgac.cms.memberfuse.com/dgac/files/2013_eblasts/UN_43/GHS_UN43_large_GHS_pictograms_final.pdf and

the second paper discusses the Practical alternatives to Empty Pictogram Frames - goto:

http://www.dgac.org/sites/dgac.cms.memberfuse.com/dgac/files/2013_eblasts/UN_43/UN43_DGAC_empty_pictograms_final.pdf

Changes to US Toxic Chemical Safety Laws

Lawmakers in Washington have reached agreement on a potential compromise to reform the way the nation regulates toxic chemicals.

The bill would, for the first time, require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to review the safety of all chemicals used in commerce. Currently, the federal Toxic Substances Control Act allows the vast majority of chemicals to remain on the market without any evidence of their safety.

The EPA has tested only about 200 of the 84,000 chemicals in the agency's inventory.

The groundbreaking deal was reached between New Jersey Democrat Frank Lautenberg, who, for years, has pushed a tough bill to modernize chemical protections, and Louisiana Republican David Vitter, who has been trying to build support for a more modest, industry-backed proposal. For more information:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c113:S.1009>:

Meat Workers Hurt after Chemical Reaction

Five workers at a beef processing plant in Nebraska, USA, were exposed to dangerous chemicals during an accident that forced part of the plant to be evacuated. Bleach was mistakenly pumped into a container of acid at the plant. The mixture of chemicals caused a reaction that produced toxic gas. Five workers were treated for exposure at a Grand Island hospital and released.

Source: High Plains Midwest AgJournal

Over 2800 Trucks and Buses Inspected as Operation Austrans Continues

Traffic and Highway Patrol Officers, along with Inspectors from the Roads and Maritime Service, have checked over 2800 trucks and buses during Operation Austrans.

The operation is now into its fourth week and is running across Australia and New Zealand, focussing on compliance within the heavy vehicle industry.

So far during the operation, Police and RMS have take action on the following offences across NSW;

- * 249 speeding**
- * 155 seat belts**
- * 57 unlicensed drivers**
- * 173 unregistered & uninsured trucks**
- * 3083 other offences including defects, log books, fatigue, & permit issues**
- * 31 drivers have tested positive for drugs**

Source: Media Release NSW Police

Truck Crackdown on NSW Highway

Authorities carried out a joint operation targeting heavy vehicles on the Barton Highway (Yass-Canberra).

Involved were the NSW Police, (with roadside drug testing unit) Australian Federal Police, NSW Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) heavy vehicle inspectors, and the NSW Environmental Protection Authority Dangerous Goods Section (EPA)

The results were:

- 297 breath tests and 239 drug tests were conducted**
- 45 heavy vehicles were inspected with 44 defect notices and 27 traffic infringement notices issued**
- The EPA conducted 47 Dangerous Goods inspections with one driver issued a notice of review.**
- 17 waste inspections were also conducted**
- 40 downloads of heavy vehicle electronic control modules were conducted with nine (9) speed limiter non-compliance breaches detected**
- 20 traffic infringement notices were issued and there were three (3) radar infringements for speeding**

Source Yass Tribune

GHS Classification and Labelling Training Sessions Full: See AIDGC May Newsletter

Due to high demand most training sessions are now full. If you were not successful in gaining a place for this program please email workhealth@swa.gov.au to register your interest. You will be contacted should further sessions be scheduled.

The series of training and information sessions will raise awareness and understanding of the hazard classification, safety data sheet and labelling requirements for workplace chemicals in the model Work Health and Safety regulations, which incorporates the *Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals* (GHS). The aim of these sessions is to enable you to:

- understand the GHS and what it aims to do
- to learn the relationship with the GHS and hazard systems that have been used in Australia for nearly 20 years, and
- learn how to translate current chemical hazard classifications to the GHS.

Source: [Worksafe](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/news/pages/tn07052013) - <http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/news/pages/tn07052013>

Grain Bin Explosions Caught on Camera



Chemical Explosion at Fragrance Plant

A chemical explosion at a fragrance manufacturing plant in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. injured two employees. Emergency personnel were dispatched to a report of an explosion and fire. Ungerer & Co., a flavors and fragrance company, is located at that address. Emergency radio dispatches indicated the explosion came from a barrel marked with the hazardous material code 1170, which is a flammable liquid placard needed to ship ethyl alcohol, ethanol and ethanol solution.

The chemical is flammable and can be toxic depending on the type and extent of the exposure.

Source: The Morning Call

**Grain Elevator
Dust Explosion
Demonstration**
A Nationwide
Agribusiness risk
management
representative
demonstrates how
a simple spark
can react with
grain dust and
oxygen to create
a sudden and
deadly grain bin
explosion.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bM4GW7z0Xz8>

[z8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bM4GW7z0Xz8)



Guide for Safe Use of Isocyanates – An Industrial Hygiene Approach

The IRSST just published a guide for safe use of isocyanates. The guide is intended for anyone working in the field of occupational health and safety. It is designed to educate, inform and raise awareness, and has no regulatory value. Readers will come to understand the chemical hazards associated with isocyanates and will be able to make informed decisions about ways to reduce exposure and possibly the incidence of occupational asthma. The guide is not a substitute for the information contained in Material Safety Data Sheets.

Isocyanates are a family of highly reactive, low molecular weight chemicals. They are widely used in the manufacture of foams, fibers, paints and varnishes, elastomers, etc. Moreover, isocyanates are increasingly used in the automobile industry, autobody repair, and building insulation materials.

Preventing exposure to isocyanates is a critical step in eliminating the health hazard. However, because of the wide range of isocyanates present in industry, and because their physical and chemical properties and the polymerization processes are so diverse, environmental assessment of exposure remains a challenge; hence the importance of an approach starting with anticipation (gathering of information on isocyanates) and ending with the implementation of controls and of means for evaluating the efficiency of those controls. In all cases, anticipation of the physical form of airborne isocyanates contributes to a full evaluation and implementation of effective control measures.

To download the document, visit:

<http://www.irsst.qc.ca/media/documents/PubIRSST/RG-773.pdf>

NSW Work Health and Safety Regulation Transitional Arrangements

Advice has been received from WorkCover that the following extensions have been made:

- notification of dangerous goods – until 31 December 2014
- registration of an item of plant – until 30 June 2015
- introduction of the new high risk work licence class of 'reach stacker' – until 30 June 2014.

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/NEWLEGISLATION2012/WHSTRANSITIONALARRANGEMENTS/Pages/default.aspx>

NSW – Status of Codes and Guidance Material for Hazardous Chemicals

Codes of practice

The following Safe Work Australia Codes of Practice have been approved by the responsible NSW Minister and are approved codes of practice, admissible in court proceedings in accordance with Section 275 of the WHS Act 2011:

- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Preparation of safety data sheets for hazardous chemicals

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/lawpolicy/codes-of-practice/Pages/default.aspx>

Guidance material

- The Safe Work Australia Code of Practice “Managing risks of hazardous chemicals” has not, at this time, been approved by the responsible NSW Minister and is not covered by Section 275 of the Act. It is listed by WorkCover NSW as “guidance material” available from Safe Work Australia. See (scroll down) <http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/lawpolicy/codes-of-practice/Pages/default.aspx>

- The former NSW Code of Practice “Storage and handling of dangerous goods” (Publication No WC01354) is not covered by Section 275 of the Act, but is now guidance material, available from:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/pages/storageandhandlingofdangerousgoods.aspx>

where it is described as follows:

“This code of practice provides comprehensive practical guidance on the safe storage and handling of substances and articles classified as dangerous goods, (excluding explosives, infectious substances and radioactive substances).

This former code of practice under the OHS legislation is provided for the purpose of guidance only. Readers should not rely on statements in this document to ascertain requirements under the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*. The information in this document should be used only as guidance on practical processes and controls to manage risks to health or safety.”

Victorian Dangerous Goods

(Storage and Handling) Draft Code

The updated Code is due out at the end of July 2013. Check for the draft at: <http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/safety-and-prevention/health-and-safety-topics/dangerous-goods>

Runaway Reaction Causes Fatal Explosion in U.S.A.

Two chemical plant operators, 40 and 50, died after suffering burns to their bodies when a runaway reaction caused an explosion of flammable liquids in Tennessee, USA.

The two victims were working in a building which contained several tanks of chemicals. An employee in an adjacent area reported an ammonia odour coming from the building.

The two victims and their supervisor searched the building and discovered a puffing/venting from a feed tank. They further determined that a tank (#302) adjacent to the feed tank was heating up. Tank #302 contained flammable chemicals.

The supervisor directed the two operators to transfer the product in tank #302 to reactor #103 to cool it and reduce pressure in tank #302.

A chemical hose was initially used to transfer the product, but they heard bubbling and popping and saw the hose blistering and expanding.

They stopped the transfer after 200 gallons had been moved and used a stainless steel hose to transfer another 200 gallons of the product to tank #103. This left 2,400 gallons in tank #302. A 14-psi rupture disk then blew at tank #302.

An employee in an adjacent area reported to the supervisor, who had left the building momentarily to file a report, that a big yellow cloud had appeared over building #55. One operator went to the control room on the second floor to monitor the temperature and pressure of the reactor #103.

The supervisor was talking from the cab of his truck to the other operator who was standing in the door of building #55, about 10 feet from the supervisor.

Tank #302 then exploded and fire spread through the building. Both operators were severely burned, one over 92% of his body and the other over 74% of his body.

The supervisor escaped and immediately called for help. The first operator died 5 days after the explosion and the other expired 39 days after the explosion.

To read the full citation, goto:

http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/tosha/TOSHA_INVEST/2012/Investigation%20Number%2026%20Explosion.doc

Source: Safeteng



Building #55 after the explosion



An emergency dive team was sent to help with the silo rescue

Natural gasoline is a volatile natural gas product with an octane rating between 30 and 40. Natural gasoline was used as an early automotive fuel, but is used in the present day as a feedstock for gasoline, paint thinner, solvents and cleaning products.

Three Die In Dutch Liquid Manure Tank

Three men have died after becoming trapped in a manure tank in a rural part of The Netherlands.

A fourth man was taken to hospital in a critical condition.

De Telegraaf said that one victim was the 26-year-old youngest son of the farm owner. The detail was attributed to a neighbour involved in the rescue, who added that a 29-year-old man from Joure and a 42-year old man from Nijland also died.

The neighbour said the youngest man was involved in cleaning the 10-metre high silo with three other people.

A witness said he apparently fell into the storage facility, which was only partially filled.

It is still unclear how the others became trapped inside.

It is suspected that they were all overcome by noxious fumes.

Rescuers were forced to cut a hole in the side of the metal tank.

Emergency crews at the scene included ambulance, fire and a rescue dive team.

Source and photo: SkyNews

3 Critically Hurt as Fuel Barge Explodes: USA

Firefighters extinguished a huge blaze that erupted when two fuel barges exploded in Mobile, Alabama, leaving three people with critical burns and forcing the evacuation of crew from a nearby cruise ship.

The cause of the fire, was likely started from a spark during its cleaning, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

Across the river, the Carnival Triumph, the cruise ship that became disabled in the Gulf of Mexico last February before it was towed to Mobile's port, was evacuated,

Video from WALA-TV <http://bit.ly/15NEYJl> showed flames engulfing a large section of the barge, and a video that a bystander sent to AL.com <http://bit.ly/13vWz4G> showed the fiery explosions and billowing smoke over the river.

The barges were empty and being cleaned at the Oil Recovery Co. facility when the incident began. The barges had been carrying a liquid called natural gasoline -- which is neither liquefied natural gas or natural gas.

Source: <http://www.foxnews>

'Dirty' Ship Threatens Environment: Victoria

The Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay may face environmental damage due to unsafe cleaning practises on a vessel at Melbourne's Appleton Dock, according to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF).

The ITF last night accused the Sat Nunki ship's owners and operators of cutting corners with workplace and environmental safety. The call follows a failed ship inspection with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), which reportedly found the ship was too unclean to carry grain, as its hatches had previously been filled with phosphate and coal.

"Normally cleaning would occur well out to sea, and would be done with proper safety and environmental protocols, but instead we are seeing a rushed job taking place because the vessel was found to be too unclean to carry its cargo of grain," Summers says.

Port of Melbourne Corporation CEO Stephen Bradford says the method in which a vessel undertakes [EPA] requirements is a matter for the vessel or shipping line. Source: Supply Chain Review

Melbourne Boy Taken to Hospital with Burns after Playing with Fire and Petrol

Read the story on ABC News: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-06-16/boy-taken-to-hospital-after-playing-with-fire-and-petrol/4756722>

Huge Fire Hits Gasoline Station in Hanoi

Ten firefighters were injured after an extensive fire broke out at a gasoline station No. 9 on Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi that belongs to the Military Gas & Oil Company at 1:15 pm on Monday.

As seen by photos, a fuel-tank truck carrying 100,000 litres of gasoline erupted in flames, sending billowing clouds of black smoke into the air.

According to Tuoi Tre's on-the-scene-reporters, 10 firefighters sustained burn injuries while battling the fire and all of them have been taken to hospital for treatment.

The cause of the blaze was not immediately clear yet. 20 fire trucks and a large number of firefighters have been deployed to the scene.

As of 4:45pm, firefighters were still working to put it out entirely. Around 15 mins later, more than 1000 people were deployed to extinguish the fire. Tuoi Tre reporters at the scene said they could feel the heat and the smell of gasoline hundreds of metres away from the fire scene.

Photos and Source: tuoitrenews.vn



Good Training Lessons Learned Video – The following comment from Kevin Westwood, JOIFF

How not to tackle a flammable liquid fire. Lots of good intentions, however, no command and control, too many fire-fighters in the hot zone, chaos from start to finish, and deployment of dry chemical (powder) on top of foam blanket, breaking up the foam and allowing vapour breakthrough and rapid fire escalation engulfing fire-fighters engaged in foaming operations. This incident could have been tackled by 2 – 4 fire-fighters max. utilising effective streams, good quality foam through, portable ground monitors remotely.

Must See Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UkOjsip_A



Photo: Frederic J. Brown,
AFP/Getty Images

WAL-MART Pleads Guilty to Dumping Hazardous Waste across California – fined U.S.\$81 million.

To read story goto:

http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2013/05/28/wal-mart-waste/2366999/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&dlvrit=206567

119 Dead in China after Poultry Plant Explosion: Ammonia Blamed

The food industry has borne witness to a devastating explosion that so far has claimed the lives of 119 people. The incident took place at Jilin province's Mishazi township after witnesses claim three explosions led to a raging fire that tore through the poultry plant.

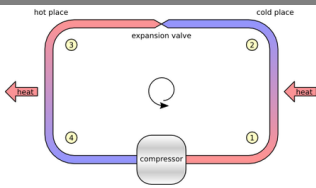
Source are claiming this was a result of yet another Ammonia related incident.

Authorities are calling this the worst environmental accident since 2008 with the death toll expected to rise in the coming days. The layout and design of the plant may be subject to scrutiny as investigations get underway due to the complex nature of its corridors and locked gate. These elements are being blamed by some as part of the reason so many workers could not escape. It took more than 500 fire fighters to get the blaze under some level of control in an incident that once again sheds light on an industry with overly relaxed regulations not just in China but globally. Source: ATEX Fire Explosions Ltd.





Diagram:
explosionhazards.co.uk



The blaze is being blamed on several chemical explosions. Ammonia, used in the poultry plant's cooling system, reportedly leaked from storage containers. The leaking ammonia is thought to have caused several explosions, which led to the fatal fire.

Source: <http://www.inquisitr.com/686719/fire-kills-119-at-chinese-poultry-plant/>

Watch the Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MobXndIMq64>

A refrigeration plant uses gas, liquid, and mechanical energy to move heat from one place to another. A liquid, such as ammonia, which has a low boiling temperature is allowed to pass into a space via tubing. As the pressure in the ammonia drops, the liquid begins to boil, and enter a phase transition from liquid to gas. In doing so, there is a great absorption of heat energy by the liquid in the tubing to create this phase change. The heat energy is absorbed from the space, and as the liquid boils off, it forms a gas. The gas is pulled through the tubing in the space into a suction header outside the space to the suction of a compressor. The compressor repressurises the gas, and discharges the liquid through cold water heat exchangers or cooling fans, exhausting the heat absorbed from the space, into the outside atmosphere. By pressurising and cooling the gas, the gas returns to a liquid stage, where it is stored and reintroduced to the space to be cooled.

Diagram and Source: Wikipedia

Pressurized ammonia exploded in a poultry slaughterhouse in China, sparking a fire that killed at least 119 people and injured dozens, officials said. Source: UPlasia.com

Fire Rages at Oregon, U.S.A. Seafood Plant

Crews in Warrenton battled a two-alarm fire Tuesday at an Oregon coast seafood plant that forced 80 employees to evacuate.

The fire was reported at Pacific Seafood, located at 450 NE Skipanon Drive, according to the Clatsop County Fire Department. It quickly spread to two alarms.

Firefighters from six different agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard, battled the blaze for hours. By 4 p.m. Tuesday they had knocked down the flames and were mopping up hot spots.

All 80 workers inside the plant when the fire started were able to escape without injury. The building sustained heavy damage.

Witnesses said the front collapsed under huge flames. "I'd say they were about 50 to 100 feet sometimes and they'd die out and then pop up somewhere else on the building," said witness Gus Bartlet. "And then the front went up and just kept going."

Firefighters were keeping a close eye on the large tanks of anhydrous ammonia used for refrigeration at the plant.

See Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHBrbgNbZ0U>



Don't be caught with something like this at your facility.

OSHA Reminds Inspectors to Ensure Exit Doors are Unlocked, Exit Routes Free

OSHA (U.S. Occupational Health and Safety Administration) has reminded all compliance officers to check for adequate means of egress at all workplaces. This follows the recent disastrous fire and explosion that killed at least 119 workers on June 4, 2013, at a poultry processing plant in China.

A memorandum sent to the agency's regional administrators and state plan designees directs field inspectors, when conducting inspections, to be mindful of whether employers have provided and maintained adequate means of egress from work areas. This includes checking that an adequate number of exit routes are provided, that the exit routes are free and unobstructed, and that exit doors are not locked.

Source and photo: advancedsafetyhealth.com

Homes Evacuated after Fire in Edmonton Canada, Ice Manufacturer

Firefighters evacuated several houses and urged other residents to stay indoors Wednesday evening after a fire broke out in the Arctic Glacier plant near Yellowhead Trail.

Eight fire crews were called to the scene for a fire at the facility, a refrigeration plant that makes packaged ice.

Crews evacuated several houses immediately adjacent to the facility because of concerns regarding burning chemicals. Police also went door to door asking other residents in the surrounding area to remain inside with doors and windows shut. The area was momentarily covered in thick, black smoke, residents said.

Workers wearing Hazmat suits hosed and scrubbed the firefighters who emerged from inside the facility.

Photo and Source: Alicja Siekierska, Edmonton Journal



Fertilizer-Mixing Accident: U.S.A.

An employee of a Kansas company died from injuries sustained while mixing fertilizer in a mobile production unit in eastern Idaho. He was blending water, ammonia and polyphosphate in the mobile unit when he sustained injuries. The company, which operates mobile fertilizer production units in 14 states, is the largest portable blender of fertilizer in the country. The company sends portable units to blend on production sites close to customers to reduce costs of shipping fertilizer mixtures heavy on water.

Source: John O'Connell, Capital Press

Explosive Chemicals Finally Removed

The "vast amount" of a large quantity of potentially explosive chemicals has now been removed from a Flintshire pharmaceuticals factory. Experts have been taking isosorbide dinitrate, known as ISDN, from the Euticals plant in Sandycroft, since it was discovered last November.

It has been removed and treated by specialist contractors off-site. Now, Flintshire council says such a small quantity exists it can be treated locally.

ISDN is used to make angina medication.

A council statement said: "This final stage of the treatment will bring to a conclusion the programme of work which has been carried out without incident. "There has been no disruption caused to the local community and neighbouring businesses during this programme of supervised work, and the risks on site have been significantly reduced."

The last stage of the removal and disposal work will take place in a nearby but more remote location away from properties which will be monitored by the agencies involved. They include the Health and Safety Executive, Natural Resources Wales, police, fire and the health service.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-22919696>

See also January, 2013 What's Happening?

China: Management of Dangerous Chemicals

The Ministry of Education has issued a circular calling for the improved management of dangerous chemicals used in university labs, after two recent deadly accidents.

Education authorities at various levels and universities are required to further intensify management of dangerous chemicals for lab use including a system to put the entire procedures of purchase, use, recycling and disposal of dangerous chemicals under supervision to ensure safety, the circular said.

Strict management should be carried out for poisonous chemicals. At least two people are required to store or use such chemicals, it said.

Thorough inspections should also be made to ensure no inflammable or explosive chemicals exist before a lab stops being used or is demolished, it added.

Source: China Daily, Wang Xiaodong

Pharmaceutical Unit in India Turns to Ashes in Major Explosion

In yet another major blast involving a pharmaceutical company, an explosion in sodium containers triggered a series of blasts at the Glochem Pharma company, turning the entire factory to ashes at Jawaharlal Nehru Pharma City in Parawada, 60 km from Visakhapatnam on Thursday. While the workers' union leaders fear that at least two persons were caught in the mishap, the officials stated that nothing can be ascertained until the fire is brought under control.

The incident unfolded at around 4.30 pm with an explosion suspected to have occurred in one of the sodium containers stored near the store room. Within minutes, fire spread to all the five blocks in the premises, and three floors of the four-storyed building which housed the reactors turned to rubble following a series of blasts caused due to explosion of sodium containers.

Sources in the factory affirmed that there were no deaths and most of the employees were outside the building. "Those who were inside the building rushed out, alarmed by the deafening sound of explosions in the chemical containers," said the officials in the factory.

About eight fire engines were pressed into service to bring the fire under control but in vain. Instead, the fire personnel are learnt to have backed out after fighting the fire for a couple of hours, as water reacted with the chemicals like sodium and developed into a blazing inferno.

Even after fighting the fire for over five hours, it could not be brought.

Meanwhile, panic spread in villages of Parawada, Tanam, Tadi, Lankelapalem, Boddapuvanipalem, E Bonangi, Gorlavanipalem and up to Steel Plant township due to deafening explosions and spreading of smoke to a range of 5 km along with a pungent smell of chemicals. Many people rushed out of their homes and later, started vacating their houses to run for safety.

Sources said that the fire spread fast inside the chemical factory as winds blew at a speed of about 40-50 kmph towards Tadi direction due to rainy climatic conditions.

The union leaders and villagers told media persons, that the factory did not have proper fire-fighting equipment to fight such massive mishaps. Power supply was cut-off in Tadi, Tanam and Parawada as a precautionary measure.

Source: The New Indian Express



Photos:
thehindubusinessline.com



Fine Over Toxic Chemical Leak at Club

Several people had to be treated in hospital after the incident at the Omni Centre pool plant room in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2010. Virgin Active, which runs the site, pled guilty to what a sheriff described as a very serious breach of safety laws. Edinburgh City Council said there had been serious failures in the way the hazardous substances were managed.

'Unacceptable' failings

Edinburgh Sheriff Court heard that polyaluminium chloride was wrongly mixed with a swimming pool disinfectant, sodium hypochlorite, which produced toxic chlorine gas.

A Virgin Active's spokesman said: "This relates to a chemical incident in 2010, which occurred in the club's plant room - an area only accessible to staff - and not in the swimming pool.

"After the incident, four members of staff were taken to hospital as a precautionary measure, none of whom required treatment.

Photo and Source: BBC News

U.K. Boy Suffers Chemical Burns at Pool

A leisure company faces prosecution after a toddler slipped over at an Essex swimming pool and suffered serious chemical burns. The boy was due to have his first swimming lesson at Great Dunmow Leisure Centre when he slipped over near a drain in the changing rooms. He was taken to hospital and later required skin grafts. Father and son were leaving the changing room for the pool at the same time a member of staff was allegedly squirting a liquid into a floor drain.

An air ambulance was called and took the boy to Broomfield Hospital in Chelmsford, which has a specialist burns unit. He suffered serious burns on his buttock and thigh and needed surgery.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-22855442>

5,000 Gallons of Acid Spill at Montana Chemical Manufacturer

Fire crews responded to a chemical manufacturing plant after an open valve flooded a mixing tank and spilled roughly 5,000 gallons of water tainted with acid. The acids were described as sulfuric, phosphoric and citric.

Spectrum, which operates under Playcore, produces pool products at its Missoula plant.

Source: Martin Kidston, www.missoulilian.com



Photo: www.isgplc.com



Members of the Missoula Regional Hazmat team enter the Spectrum Products building. Photo, James Riggs, Missoulian

Dupont Fluoroproducts at Kentucky: Spill

A day after a hazardous chemical leak, Dupont workers returned to the job even as hydrochloric acid continues to spill.

Dupont Fluoroproducts safety leaders say 1,375 lbs. of hydrochloric acid have spilled into the air, and another 270 lbs. leaked into the ground since Sunday. "It's a hotzone, still, as we are working through to continue our neutralization efforts," said Bhanu Calvert, of Dupont Fluoroproducts.

Firefighters say the leak continues, but is contained as the company tries to salvage the remaining chemical substance from a 500,000-gallon tank. "The process is they're moving the product from the leaking vessel to more secure containers," said Fred George, the Lake Dreamland Fire chief. "We're assessing the level in the tanks and starting to neutralize the acid."

Hydrochloric acid is a clear, colorless solution of hydrogen chloride in water. It is commonly used in making products such as fertilizers. The neutralization includes applying limestone and soda ash.

"We have already begun our investigation -- the things that we can without going into the hotzone area," Calvert said. "We think the neutralization will take about two days."

Source: WDRB.com

A breach in the dike being used to contain a leak of hydrochloric acid at the DuPont Fluoroproduct plant on Camp Ground Road has been reported, but officials said there was no danger to the public. A second hazardous materials team was called in when the 2-inch hole developed in the dike, MetroSafe spokeswoman Jody Duncan said in a conference call with reporters.

The hydrochloric acid leaking from the hole is being contained with soda ash and no new alert was issued to people in the surrounding area, Duncan said.

This dike breach interrupted the process of neutralizing the hydrochloric acid. "That leak needs to be controlled before they can continue on with offloading and neutralizing of that product," Duncan said. There is no projection for how long the offloading will take, she said.

The original leak was believed to have been caused by a faulty flange and was contained within minutes, company spokeswoman Bhanu Calvert said at a news conference Monday morning.

Hydrochloric acid is a colorless solution of hydrogen chloride in water. It is a highly corrosive, strong mineral acid, with many industrial uses. Source: courier-journal.com



Photo: www.wkly.com

"Some guys doing a procedure in a confined area were using nitrogen to fill a pipe and they had a piece of equipment fail causing some injuries to some of their employees" said Chief Drozd...



Photo: Lia Sestric/WCIV

Explosion at Charleston, USA: 5 Injured

Officials at the scene said five men were working near a manhole at the time of the explosion, working on a pipe that held electrical lines going under the harbor. All five were taken to Medical University Hospital for treatment.

The men injured were above ground. The men below were unharmed. "Some guys doing a procedure in a confined area were using nitrogen to fill a pipe and they had a piece of equipment fail causing some injuries to some of their employees," said Chief Drozd. "It was a large piece of conduit that had electrical lines in it."

Officials have not said what triggered the explosion or expounded on the details of the injuries suffered by the four men.

"It (the liquid nitrogen) went into a gaseous state and the piece that failed, it was glass and it blew up and the injuries were related to that explosion," Chief Drozd explained and said he did not see any burn injuries, only shrapnel related.

A UTEC spokesman said a high pressure line broke.

Source:ABCNEWS4.com

13 Kinds of Health Food Banned: China

China's food and drug watchdog have announced that 13 types of health food would be banned, as they have been found to contain undesirable chemicals.

China Food and Drug Administration's statement seen on its website bans 13 products containing sibutramine, phenolphthalein, metformin and other chemicals.

According to Chinese law, health food and medicines are differentiated, as chemicals are not allowed to be added to health food.

Sibutramine can lead to high blood pressure, abnormal liver function and other serious side effects. The chemical has been banned in China since 2010.

Source: Xinhua

Alcohol Tanker Truck Blast in Bolivia

At least 10 people were killed and 14 were injured when a tanker truck loaded with alcohol exploded in Bolivia. The tragedy occurred on the road linking the country with neighbouring Peru. Authorities say the explosion damaged or destroyed 11 vehicles.

Preliminary data from the investigation indicate that the driver of the truck lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a group of cars standing on the roadside. In the collision the alcohol spilled and caught fire, most of the victims died in the flames. The injured were taken to three hospitals nearest to the accident site. Source: Eurasia Review

**Tanker Blast
Watch the
Video**

<http://www.wsbradio.com/videos/news/at-least-18-killed-when-truck-bursts-into-flames/v448J/>

N.Z. Hazardous Substances Toolbox

The *Hazardous Substances Toolbox* has been created to help employers who own or manage small industrial businesses work safely with hazardous substances.

The Toolbox will also help you to increase your compliance with the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) and offers some key health and safety principles from the Health and Safety in Employment legislation.

The Toolbox is a multi-media package and some of the tools are available online only, other parts are available in print only, while others are available both online and in print.

The Toolbox takes you through the 5 Steps to Safety and provides you with the tools to complete each step.

The multimedia toolbox includes:

- **Your Practical Guide to working safely with hazardous substances** – a reference booklet to provide information about the **Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) controls** <http://www.osh.govt.nz/law/hsno-controls.shtml> and how to safely manage hazardous substances.
- **The HSNO Calculator**, which helps businesses work out which key HSNO controls they need in place (available on the Toolbox website).
- **The Workbook**, which includes instructions and a template for creating a hazardous substances inventory and helpful checklists.
- **Your Health Your Future poster**, to remind staff about wearing safety gear.
- **Know the Hazards poster** to inform staff what symbols on hazardous substance labels mean.
- **An emergency response flip chart**, which provides a template of an emergency response plan.
- **A flyer** providing an overview of the toolbox.
- **Animated videos** highlighting key safety messages for staff (available on the Toolbox website).

The dedicated Toolbox website –

<http://www.hazardoussubstances.govt.nz>

provides the electronic components of the toolbox and is packed with helpful advice and information.



Image: [Pardaphash](#)

34 Chinese Officials Charged over Mines

Thirty-four local government officials have faced punishment in the Sichuan Province of southwest China in relation to a lethal mine accident and an illegal mine. The officials were from the cities of Luzhou and Leshan, Zee News reported.

Twenty-nine officials faced punishment for a gas explosion in Taozigou coal mine in Luxian County, Luzhou City, Xinhua news agency said. Among them are mayor of Luzhou City Liu Qiang, and deputy mayor Zhang Xianfu, who were both given warnings. Deputy Director of the city's financing office Ma Teng and deputy head of the Luxian county government Pu Tao were sacked.

The explosion claimed 28 lives on May 11.

The Chinese media had reported 81 miners were rescued from the explosion at the Taozigou mine, and 16 were taken to hospital with injuries. The accident followed a separate explosion at a mine in the Guizhou Province, which killed a further 12 workers.

The explosion is one among many and adds to China's poor mining safety record. Coal mine accidents claimed 1,384 people last year. A gas blast at the Machang coal mine killed 21 people in March, with 58 workers getting to the surface safely.

Illegal operation of the Dabao coal mine in the Ebian Yi Autonomous County, Leshan City led to sackings or disciplinary actions of five officials.

The mine had violated orders from the provincial government for all mines to stop production for risk analysis in early June.

The head of the Ebian Yi autonomous county government was also suspended from work. The deputy head of the county government and head of the county's work safety administration were also sacked. Source: Australian Mining, Malavika Santhebennur

After the Storm: Co-Produced by the U.S. EPA and The Weather Channel

The show highlights three case studies—Santa Monica Bay, the Mississippi River Basin/Gulf of Mexico, and New York City—where polluted runoff threatens watersheds highly valued for recreation, commercial fisheries and navigation, and drinking water. Key scientists and water quality experts, and citizens involved in local and national watershed protection efforts provide insight into the problems as well as solutions to today's water quality challenges.

Documentary:

<http://www.clu-in.org/goto.cfm?link=%2Fasxfiles%2Fafterthestorm%2Easx&id=602>

U.S. Chemical Firms Face Challenges Implementing GHS Requirements

Chemical manufacturers have a lot of work ahead as they aim to comply with regulations occurring from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration aligning its 2012 Hazard Communication Standard with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System framework, according to a white paper by compliance products firm Labelmaster.

In March 2012, OSHA revised its 1983 Hazard Communication Standard, or HCS, by aligning it with the UN's global chemical communication system: the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals, or GHS. By the end of 2013, the first deadline outlined in the regulation will have passed and the largest change in workplace safety regulation since 1983 will be in full swing, according to GHS Impact On US Chemical Manufacturers: Regulatory Changes And Practical Guidance. According to Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health, the 1983 HCS gave workers the right to know whereas the 2012 update gives them "the right to understand, as well."

By Dec. 1, all US workers who come into contact with just one chemical in the workplace will have to be trained to understand how to interpret hazards communicated through pictograms and standardized material safety data sheets, now called safety data sheets, or SDS.

Whereas the 1983 HCS simply mandated that chemicals were labelled with their identity, appropriate hazard warnings and some other administrative information, the 2012 requirements call for a more detailed description of the chemical as well as a hazard statement, pictograms, precautionary statements and a number of other pieces of information related to potential hazards. According to Labelmaster, chemical manufacturers will have to do most of the work to comply with the incoming regulations.

In March, information and analytics company IHS released updated versions of its enterprise software for advanced product compliance, chemical management and safety data sheet management. IHS Comply Plus 3.2 and IHS Intelligent Authoring 4.3.1 aims to offer many improvements that help organizations address business challenges driven by the revised hazard communication standard from OSHA.

Source: www.environmentalleader.com