



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

May 2013



U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigator Jerad Denton took a film crew into West, Texas, to document the level of community damage from the fertilizer explosion that killed 14 and injured about 200 others. This 3-minute video shows the devastation.

<http://www.csb.gov/videos/csb-video-documenting-the-blast-damage-in-west-texas/>

...after deadly Chemical Plant Disasters, there's little action Listen to the Story:

<http://www.npr.org/2013/05/17/184500477/after-deadly-chemical-plant-disasters-theres-little-action>

West Fertilizer Texas: USCSB Reports

As other agencies wrapped up their on-site investigations into the ammonium nitrate explosion at West Fertilizer in West, Texas, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) announced its work to examine all aspects of the tragedy will continue in the town of West, at the Western Regional Office in Denver, and at the agency's headquarters in Washington, DC.

The CSB deployed a team of approximately 18 investigators and other technical experts within 24 hours of the incident on April 17, and has maintained an almost continuous presence in West since then. The sudden blast led to at least 14 fatalities, approximately 200 injuries, and widespread damage and destruction in the small town of West, Texas, located between Dallas and Waco.

CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "... we want everyone to know we are fully committed to providing a thorough public account of all the factors that led to this catastrophe. After a disaster of this scale, it is essential to pursue improved safety as we look toward the future."

CSB Western Regional Office Director Don Holmstrom said, "The CSB will be examining many issues surrounding the explosion such as the safe storage and handling of ammonium nitrate, the siting of vulnerable public facilities and residential units near the facility, and emergency responder safety.

In addition, the investigation will examine the adequacy of national standards, industry practices, and regulations for the safe storage and handling of ammonium nitrate."

CSB investigation areas of inquiry will include ammonium nitrate safe handling and storage standards here and in other countries such as the UK and Australia; land use planning and zoning practices for high-hazard facilities in relation to schools, public facilities, and residential areas; ammonium nitrate detonation mechanisms; the effectiveness of regulatory coverage including OSHA, EPA, and the State of Texas; whether there are inherently



Smoke rises from plant after the explosion. Photo: <http://www.washingtonpost.com>



The remains of the fertilizer plant after the deadly explosion. Photo: Reuters

See Story at right:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/firefighters-at-scene-of-texas-explosion-focused-on-toxic-gases-rather-than-risk-of-huge-blast/2013/05/15/cc_e5bcd0-bd2d-11e2-b537-ab47f0325f7c_story.html

safer products or safer ways to store and mitigate the damage should a fire or explosion occur. The investigation will examine the emergency response during the fire at West, and practices, including preparedness, fire codes, and guidelines for good practices found in other jurisdictions.

Dr. Moure-Eraso stressed the CSB does not issue fines or penalties of any kind, or seek civil or criminal sanctions. “We do not look for individual fault or blame with regard to actions taken before an accident or in response to them. Rather, we produce what are called root cause investigations.”

The CSB is in the process of conducting witness interviews and gathering documents and other evidence. It has documented blast damage and patterns in the community, and will engage in testing chemical samples and conducting a thorough analysis of the nature and magnitude of the blast, and its actual and potential consequences.

Chairperson Moure-Eraso said, “This accident produced far more offsite community damage and destruction than any we have investigated since the agency opened its doors in 1998. We will release information and findings when possible as we continue our work, and in the end will issue a comprehensive root cause report with recommendations. We also encourage members of the public and stakeholders to share information directly with the CSB as the investigation progresses.”

The CSB has established a Facebook page, to exchange information with the public concerning the investigation:

<http://www.facebook.com/WestExplosion>

Firefighters at Scene Focused on Toxic Gases rather than Risk of Huge Blast

When they saw 30-foot flames licking the sky inside a massive fertilizer plant, firefighters in this tiny Texas town rushed to evacuate nearby buildings and raced to spray water on tanks of chemicals, hoping to prevent a catastrophe. They didn’t know, and probably could not imagine, that the plant would soon explode into a deadly fireball and lay waste to much of the community. Instead, they were more concerned with preventing toxic gas from leaking out of the facility and drifting into nearby homes. Associated Press interviews with first-responders suggest that firefighters’ foremost fear was a poisonous cloud of anhydrous ammonia – but the greater threat turned out to be the plant’s vast stockpile of a common fertilizer, ammonium nitrate, which can also serve as a cheap alternative to dynamite.

State Fire Marshal: Cause of West Explosion 'undetermined'

Pipe Bomb Charge over Texas Explosion

A paramedic who responded to the explosion has been arrested on a charge of possessing the components of a pipe bomb. Law enforcement officials would not say whether the charge was related to the blast.

Bryce Reed, 31, a paramedic who said he helped evacuate people after the April 17 blast, was taken into custody.

An affidavit sworn by a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Douglas Kunze said authorities had found parts of a pipe bomb, including potassium nitrate powder, which is used in fertilizers and gunpowder. Although Mr. Reed was not in possession of the material, he admitted to having possessed it, the affidavit said.

Mr. Reed spoke to various news organizations after the explosion and gave a videotaped eulogy at a memorial service for victims that was attended by President Barack Obama. His Facebook page indicated he had been criticized for seeking publicity and pointed to personal problems.

In a posting on May 7, he referred to Cyrus Reed, a paramedic who died in the explosion, as his brother because of their close friendship.

Source: Timothy Williams, Manny Fernandez, New York Times

The cause of the explosion at the West Fertilizer Co. that killed 15 people remains undetermined despite a month-long, \$1 million investigation, state and federal officials said Thursday.

State Fire Marshal Chris Connealy said investigators have narrowed the cause to one of three things: a shorted 120-volt electrical system, a defunct golf cart or an intentionally-set fire. Officials said the electrical system and golf cart could not be ruled out because too many pieces are missing to prove that they didn't cause the fire, which set off two explosions "milliseconds" apart. Authorities declined to speculate on whether the arrest of former West EMT Bryce Reed was related to the explosion. Reed was arrested on May 10 on a charge of possession of a destructive device. They said they wouldn't take any questions regarding Reed, citing the ongoing investigation. Reed has pleaded not guilty to possessing an unregistered firearm and has vehemently denied being involved in the fertilizer plant explosion.

The fire began in the seed room, which backed up to an ammonium nitrate storage bin. The golf cart was located in that room.

Officials said the heat from the fire in the seed room caused the ammonium nitrate to be susceptible to shock. Falling debris hit the storage bin, which set off the first explosion and the larger second one.

Only 28 to 34 tons of the ammonium nitrate of the 150 total tons on the site exploded. The force of that amount was equal to 15,000 to 20,000 pounds of dynamite exploding, according to a spokesman with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. It left a crater 10 feet deep and 93 feet wide.

In its mandatory Tier II report, the West Fertilizer Co. reported having 250 tons of ammonium nitrate onsite. Investigators found evidence of only 150, the ATF spokesman said.

ATF investigators said the excavation of the blast site is complete and 280 leads have been followed. More than 400 people have been interviewed, 250 pieces of evidence have been collected and the ATF has spent more than \$1 million on the investigation.

Investigators have used forensic mapping, chemical analysis, computer modeling and reconstruction of key components of the blast in their investigation.

Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/west-fertilizer-company-cause-undetermined-fire-marshal.html>

AIDGC/AGM
Sydney
with keynote
Speaker
July 26

AIDGC Annual
Conference
Sydney
September 27



Emergency services were called to the explosion (file picture). Photograph: Alamy

\$2.25-billion Penalty Recommended in San Bruno California Blast

After a natural gas pipeline ruptured setting off a fire in San Bruno, California, that burned 15 acres and destroyed 38 structures.

Some amazing quotes in the LA Times story:

“Utility giant Pacific Gas & Electric should pay a record \$2.25-billion penalty for a 2010 natural gas explosion in San Bruno that killed eight people and devastated a neighbourhood, regulators recommended Monday.”

“A report released Monday by the Commission’s Safety and Enforcement Division said its investigators found more than 100 violations by the company, some dating back decades.”

“Imposing a fine for each violation ... would result in tens of billions of dollars of fines, which is more than PG&E’s net worth,” the report said.”

“Regulators said they agreed on \$2.25 billion “Because PG&E needs to retain its creditworthiness in order to be able to pay for its improvements in the safety of its facilities, as well as to procure natural gas and electric power.’

For photographs, video and full report:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-san-bruno-blast-fine-20130507,0,367925.story>

Californian Public Utilities Commission:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc/>

Man Killed and Four Injured in Suspected Gas Explosion in Newark U.K. House

A man was killed in a gas explosion which destroyed a terraced house and severely damaged a house nearby, Nottinghamshire police said.

One person was believed to be missing as firefighters searched through the rubble. The explosion seriously injured four others, including two children. The blast also damaged nearby properties and described by witnesses as like a bomb going off.

More than 100 people were evacuated from nearby homes as a precaution and other local people living in the area were being asked by police to remain indoors and ensure windows were closed to reduce the effects of dust and any gas fumes.

Source: Ben Quinn, The Guardian

A woman has been found dead amidst the rubble of a house where a died earlier At the scene of a suspected gas explosion in Nottingham The second body was found by rescuers at the house. Source: BBC



UC Davis atmospheric scientists are conducting experimental aerial surveys of natural gas pipelines with instruments designed to detect leaks of methane, a greenhouse gas. (Ian Faloona)



Acetylene Tank Blows up Car Like a Bomb

A plumber escaped unscathed after an acetylene welding tank in his car in Vancouver detonated like a bomb when he unlocked the doors. "A miracle," said Vancouver fire spokesman Capt. Gabe Roder. "He just pressed (the electronic mechanism). In the process of the locks being unlocked, somewhere there was a small spark sufficient enough to ignite the gas in the vehicle."

Source: sunnewsnetwork.ca

University of California Davis Research Plane Sniffs out Gas Leaks

To a casual observer, it looks like someone barnstorming several hundred feet above sparsely populated Central California terrain in a small plane.

But it's UC Davis atmospheric researchers surveying Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s 600 miles of natural gas pipelines between Sonoma and Fresno in a single-engine Mooney TLS packed with scientific instruments designed to sniff out leaks of methane, a potent source of global warming.

Their mission: Find gas leaks several miles downwind from the source cheap and fast, then dispatch ground crews to fix the problem and stop more pollution from spewing into the air. The \$295,000 experimental project is funded by the industry organization Pipeline Research Council International, with principal backing from PG&E. Data collected during the project will be used by PG&E to improve pipeline safety at less cost than with other available aerial survey methods including helicopters.

"Patrol planes fly more than 100 mph," Stephen Conley, an atmospheric scientist at UC Davis, said in an interview. "A helicopter goes about 50 mph and is 10 times more costly per mile to operate." "Of course, our planes are also modified to carry the technology," he added, "including a greenhouse gas analyzer, software and a GPS system to get accurate wind readings." The technology used in the project, which began in 2011 and is expected to end next year, could be adopted by pipeline operators across the nation and around the world. The technology developed by Conley and UC Davis atmospheric scientist Ian Faloona could also help identify ruptured gas lines in the aftermath of a disaster such as a massive earthquake.

"We could survey thousands of miles of gas transmission lines in a matter of days," Conley said. "The same kind of effort would take a year with current technology."

The bottom line: "At the end of this project, the software for this technology will go into the public domain," Conley said. "We believe it could result in huge cost savings for utilities and their customers."

Source: Louis.Sahagun@latimes.com

W.A Government Issues New Guidelines for the Storage of LPG Cylinders in Bushfire Prone Areas

http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/EnergySafety/PDF/Publications/LP_Gas_cylinder_safe.pdf

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

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FMGlobal – Recently Revised Datasheets

DS 1-6 Cooling Towers

DS 7-0 Causes and Effects of Fires and Explosions

DS 7-28 Energetic Materials

DS 7-43 Loss Prevention in Chemical Plants

DS 7-46 Chemical Reactors and Reactions

DS 7-76 Prevention and Mitigation of Combustible Dust Explosions and Fires

DS 7-85 Metal and Alloys

DS 7-89 Ammonium Nitrate and Mixed Fertilizers Containing Ammonium Nitrate

DS 7-92 Ethylene Oxide

To access these and others, go to <http://www.fmglobaldatasheets.com>

US Science Class Evacuated after Teacher's Experiment

Footage shot by a student at Glasgow High School in Kentucky shows the teacher and an assistant heating a substance at the front of the class. The assistant then lifts a flame at the end of a long pole up to the ceiling igniting gases and causing flames to lick across the ceiling. Not put off by the black marks left on the ceiling, the pair repeat the experiment.

But the second fireball is significantly larger, sweeping across the ceiling and triggering the sprinkler system. Students can be heard screaming as water suddenly begins blasting from the roof.

Principal Keith Hale said the high school was evacuated for 15 minutes at the end of the school day. "We had a sprinkler go off on our second floor, so we've got a little bit of water that we're having to clean up," Mr Hale said. The principal did not comment on what might happen to the offending teacher.

Author: Alys Francis. Approving editor: Matthew Henry. Source: [The Glasgow Daily Times](#)

See Video: <http://news.ninemsn.com.au/world/2013/05/20/15/09/teacher-triggers-school-evacuation-lighting-fireballs>

Experiment Creates Oil and Water Explosion

<http://video.au.msn.com/watch/video/9raw-experiment-creates-oil-and-water-explosion/x03odnb?from=news^today^home&cpkey=1b4a3d76-d30b-4255-9e6d-cdbc959738c6%257c%257c%257c%257c>

AS/NZS 2243.8 Safety In Laboratories – Part 8: Fume Cupboards

Currently issued for comment. Closes June 7.

The document is can be found at:

<https://www.sapc.standards.org.au/sapc/public/listOpenCommentingPublication.action>

This month my thanks for their contributions go to Don Johnson, Tim Dean, Scott Young and Peter Hunt.

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

StoreSafe: Free Information Checklists

Handling and managing dangerous goods in the workplace can be a complex discipline. Classifications, packages, risk assessment, manifests and comprehensive record keeping are just a few roles WHS and Facility Managers have to undertake on a regular basis. Check Lists are available from most regulatory bodies; however, being able to locate them is not always easy. StoreSafe have, on their website, a few free downloadable check lists:

Goto: <http://www.store-safe.com>

- **Package Store Risk Assessment**
- **Cabinet Risk Assessment**
- **Shower Eye/face wash weekly inspection check list**
- **Shower Eye/face wash annual inspection check list**
- **Shower Eye/face wash location log**
- **Dangerous Goods workplace check list**
- **Also available for your information are these informative documents which have been designed to assist with dangerous goods management.**
- **FAQ Oxy Acetylene and LPG equipment**
- **Chemical Manifest Audit Guide**
- **Australian Standards Dangerous Goods Guide**
- **Venting of Chemical Storage Cabinets**

Should you require any additional information or advice, including product details and specifications, you can visit StoreSafe's web site at www.store-safe.com or contact a registered Dangerous Goods Consultant through the AIDGC: <http://www.aidgc.org>



PTA area manager Colin Gildersleve inspects the bus at the Welshpool depot.
Picture: Sharon Smith/The West Australian

Bus Fires Threaten W.A. Gas Fleet

Perth's fleet of gas-fuelled buses may have to be taken off the road if unexplained fires continue to threaten safety.

The warning from the Public Transport Authority comes after a Mercedes-Benz bus caught fire and was badly damaged as it was about to be refuelled at the Welshpool depot. The bus is one of more than 500 in the Transperth fleet fuelled by compressed natural gas.

It was the third major fire on a gas-fuelled bus in the past four months - with a total damage bill of about \$1.5 million - and one of at least 14 fires in the past five years.

A report into the bus fires in December and last month is expected to be released in the coming week.

Source: Tayissa Barone, The West Australian

NSW Transport: Fire Suppression Units Installed on STA Gas Buses

Minister for Transport Gladys Berejiklian today said a program to retro-fit fire suppression units on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses has been completed, more than eight months ahead of schedule.

Following an incident on a Mercedes Benz (model OC500LE) bus in July 2011 at Hillsdale, State Transit took immediate action in identifying the cause and checking all similar models of bus and replacing the part that had been impacted.

To put in an extra layer of safety for customers, the decision was made to retrofit the buses with a fire suppression unit and on-board fire alarm system, with a tender awarded in August 2012.

Ms. Berejiklian said that the fitting of the fire suppression units had originally been scheduled for completion by January 2014, however, the installation program was accelerated and completed before the end of April.

"The fire suppression units and fire alarms have been installed on all 254 of the relevant Mercedes Benz gas buses, ahead of the schedule, adding another layer of safety for customers," she said. Also included in the tender is a five-year maintenance program of the units.

All new buses received by State Transit have a fire detection and suppression system fitted at the time of manufacture. Source:

[130516-Fire-suppression-units-installed-on-STA-gas-buses.pdf.pdf](#)
(pdf 90KB)



Lucas Heights nuclear facility. Photo: Sahlan Hayes

Nuclear Waste on the Move in Clean-Up

Radioactive waste and parts of Australia's oldest nuclear reactor will be trucked out of Sydney under plans to clean up the Lucas Heights nuclear facility and develop a national hazardous-waste dump in the outback.

But residents in Sydney's south are concerned at the prospect of having radioactive material transported past their homes.

They believe the dismantling and removal of the 1960s-era "high-flux Australian reactor" and spent fuel rods is a bid to clear the way for further development at Lucas Heights and the production of more dangerous waste. The plan to move the retired reactor, switched on by former prime minister Robert Menzies in 1958 and taken out of service in 2007, emerged in the budget papers.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, which manages Lucas Heights, has been given \$28.7 million to prepare for the move. The four-year funding package will pay for "pre-disposal conditioning of existing radioactive waste in preparation for long-term storage and disposal, and for the clean-up of buildings and infrastructure containing hazardous materials" at Lucas Heights.

Separately, the government has put \$35.7 million into securing a site to become the nation's repository for radioactive material. It will host waste from Lucas Heights and may provide the state government with a destination for contaminated soil from the former uranium smelter site at Hunters Hill.

An area at Muckaty, 800 kilometres south of Darwin, is the government's preferred site after it struck an agreement with the Northern Land Council. But development of the semi-arid claypan site is bogged down in a legal challenge by some traditional owners.

The budget papers do not identify Muckaty specifically, but a spokesman for Resources and Energy Minister Gary Gray said Muckaty, 100 kilometres north of Tennant Creek, remained the only location under consideration.

Within four years a facility that could centralize waste from Lucas Heights, and 100 or so other industrial and medical waste facilities, would be ready for construction.

An ANSTO spokesman confirmed the plan to move the reactor and waste.

The load will include fuel rods due to arrive in Botany Bay for transportation back to Lucas Heights after they were reprocessed at a nuclear facility in France.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/nuclear-waste-on-the-move-in-cleanup-20130515-2jmu5.html#ixzz2TQVAvxMJ>



Six of the train's 13 cars derailed and three caught fire, setting off a series of explosions Photo: Reuters

Train Crash: Toxic Chemicals on Fire near Belgium's Ghent

Two people died and 14 were injured when a train carrying toxic, flammable chemicals derailed and caused a major fire near the Belgian city of Ghent.

The train was travelling from the Netherlands to Ghent's seaport when it derailed as it changed tracks between the towns of Schellebelle and Wetteren. Six of the train's 13 cars derailed and three caught fire, setting off a series of explosions.

It is unclear how the two people died.

More than 300 people were evacuated from from the area.

Local official Jan Briers said: "Everything is well organised, I think, and right now, there is no reason to increase the safety zone."

The fire was brought under control later in the morning, but residents were advised to keep their doors and windows closed.

The commander of the Ghent fire brigade, Christian van de Voorde, said the best way to limit the spread of toxic chemicals had been to let the fire burn out.

Source: BBC



NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy and Tom Marshburn will perform an emergency spacewalk outside the International Space Station on May 11, 2013, to identify and perhaps fix an ammonia coolant leak. CREDIT: NASA

Rare, Unplanned Spacewalk Astronauts Hunt for Mystery Ammonia Leak

A mysterious leak of coolant on the international space station compelled two astronauts to make an extraordinary, unplanned spacewalk Saturday in which they tried to find the source of ammonia snowflakes that have been streaming into space since Thursday. They didn't spot any ammonia, but they did manage to pop in a new pump that may have solved the problem once and for all.

The 5¹/₂-hour spacewalk was the 168th EVA (extravehicular activity) in the history of the space station, but it was the first of its kind: a repair job hastily choreographed after the astronauts discovered Thursday that a cooling system had sprung a leak. Thursday night, as the astronauts slept, the leak worsened, and NASA officials decided to throw together a spacewalk on the fly. The loss of the ammonia coolant forced the shutdown of one of the eight power systems that provide electricity to the station. The station and the crew were never in peril — this was not an emergency in that sense. NASA could have punted and waited for a new crew to come aboard with a carefully crafted repair plan.

Source: The Washington Post

See Video:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/daring-space-walk-to-fix-space-station-leak/2013/05/12/0237b444-ba93-11e2-b568-6917f6ac6d9d_video.html

S.W. Queensland Oil Well Leaks 240000l

Santos says it will begin assessing environmental damage from an oil leak in Queensland's far south-west. Spokesman Matt Doman says the leak was plugged yesterday afternoon with the help of a team of specialists from the United States.

He says 300 barrels of oil per day may have been on a well near the South Australian border.

"The amount is not our major concern, our major concern is that any spill of this nature occurred and that is what we will be investigating now that the flow has stopped," he said.

"We'll be assessing any environmental impact and the remediation that's required." That remediation ... it will involve the removal of any oil on the surface and the replacement of soil as necessary."

He says the leak was confined to a limited area, about 60 kilometres from the company's Jackson facility. "We stopped the oil leak yesterday afternoon and now we are beginning the process of assessing both the scale of the event and the work that is required to remediate the site," he said.

"Oil has leaked to a limited area, any environmental impact will be assessed and all necessary remediation work will be undertaken."

Source: Brisbane Times

N.S.W. EPA Seizes Records

One of the biggest operators in the waste and recycling industry has had documents and computer records seized by the environmental watchdog as part of an investigation into alleged rackets involving illegal dumping and levy fraud. Documents and computers were seized from three companies with various waste operations in the Illawarra, Sydney metropolitan area and the Hunter region.

Industry sources have said that part of the EPA investigation is targeting waste operators who are producing false receipts for the amount of waste they have been dumping as well as those who have been hiding contaminated waste in supposedly "clean" truckloads of sand and then dumping them into landfill.

The crackdown by the EPA comes as Phillip Foxman and his companies have been found to have dumped thousands of tonnes of asbestos-contaminated waste on his property in Wollondilly. Organized crime groups had infiltrated the waste industry lured by opportunities to make big money. It has been estimated that up to half a million tonnes a year of waste, much of it contaminated with asbestos and lead is being illegally dumped on a range of sites.

Source : <http://www.smh.com.au>



The EPA investigation is said to be targeting waste operators who are hiding contaminated waste in landfill. Photo: Graham Tidy

List of Common Chemicals used to Make Bombs Released in Bid to Stem Terrorism

The internet has a new list of readily available chemicals used for terrorism but it's not an al-Qaeda manual, it's an Australian Government publication. The Attorney-General and Australian Federal Police have launched a Chemicals of Security Campaign; listing 96 substances used for improvised explosive devices and where they're found in the hope more people will support suspicious activity.

Source: Eleanor Hall, The World Today, ABC News

In a bid to curb terrorism, the campaign lists 96 substances used for improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and where they are found. He says the greatest terrorism threats are posed by individuals manufacturing IEDs and that no scientific laboratory or training is required. Boston, London, Bali, Oslo and foiled Australian terrorism plots all involved homemade explosives using commonly available chemicals and devices.

Mr. Dreyfus wants retailers and community members to use the Government's new chemical security website, brochures, posters and fact sheets to learn about the 96 chemicals.

He has called on Australians to recognize and report suspicious behaviour. "Drain cleaner and rust remover, some of these products contain nitric or sulphuric acid which are required to make the high order explosive nitro-glycerine," he said.

"Model engine fuel, many model engines run on nitro-methane, a chemical with explosive properties greater than TNT however when mixed with an oxidising agent such as ammonium nitrate, the explosive power is even greater.

"This was the mix that was used to destroy the government quarter in Oslo, Norway in 2011. "Pool sanitizer, this is a product which contains hydrogen peroxide which is the necessary chemical to make an explosive known as TATP or triacetone triperoxide also known colloquially as Mother of Satan. "It's called Mother of Satan by terrorists because it is so dangerous to handle. This was the explosive that was used to attack the transport network in London."

Source: Annie Guest, ABC News

Australian Government: Chemicals of Security Concern:

<http://www.chemicalsecurity.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

Read list of chemicals:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/143140264/Chemicals-of-Security-Concern>



Photo: Household cleaners and pool chemicals are featured in a list of items which can be used to manufacture explosives. (AAP: Lukas Coch)



Home made bomb victim
Michael Boggan in hospital.
PIC: Jonathon Searle

Ipswich Teen Loses Both Hands after Thrown an Homemade Bomb

The boy who lost both hands in a golf ball bomb blast says he didn't know the device was deadly - and told how he wished it was a dream when he looked at his injuries.

Michael Boggan lost both of his hands on Friday afternoon after the device, understood to be a golf ball, exploded in the back yard of a house in Leichhardt, near Ipswich, west of Brisbane.

Speaking from his Princess Alexandra Hospital, he said: "Tell the kids out there to tell your parents if you find anything unusual. Just don't pick it up at all."

"If you ever find anything with white powder in it with bearings in it, do not pick it up. It is a bomb."

"I had no idea it was a bomb. It just blew up in my face", Michael said.

"The tiniest powder, right, it goes into a huge flame. Right. And that was a golf ball, packed."

He said the blast happened after he went to a nearby house with friends.

"Basically we all went around there. My mate was sitting there he said 'Oh Michael, check this out - I wasn't lying - I found heroin in a golf ball'."

"He picks it out and puts it on this table and everyone was sitting there saying 'snort the shit Michael, I'll do it if you do it'."

"I was like 'no freaking way man, you do it, and then I'll probably do it'."

"But none of them did it. What I usually could do is make them snort it and then I don't snort it or whatever."

"But they didn't snort it, neither did I luckily. He put it on the table and I walked over, picked it up, had a look at it.

"He goes: 'I'll sell it to you for \$5'. Oh yeah, a smoke sorry. 'I'll sell it to you for a smoke' right.

"I roll him a smoke and I give it to him."

"He sold it to me. I was just sitting there playing with it. I was chucking it around and the next minute 'boom'."

"I was shaking it up a little bit. I didn't know it would blow up."

"I couldn't see for two seconds, and I couldn't hear for two seconds."

"And then I looked at my hands and I was like 'tell me this is a dream, please tell me this is a dream'."

"There was just all of this, hung down, and all of this skin."

Source: <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/ipswich-teen-loses-both-hands-after-thrown-a-homemade-bomb/story-e6frf7jo-1226639706999>



Photo: mchs.gov.ru

Watch Video:

<http://rt.com/news/oil-tanks-derail-russia-030/>

Huge Blaze Russian Fuel Tanks Derail: Leakage of Toxic Methylene Chloride

At least 44 people have been injured after a cargo train derailed in Russia's south with over 50 fuel tanks running off the tracks. One person has been reported missing. Almost 3,000 were evacuated from the nearby area.

Over 50 rail cars of a 71-car-long cargo train derailed at the Belaya Kalitva station in Russia's Rostov region at around 2 am local time. Up to 10 cars have caught fire as a result of the accident, and heavy smoke is reported at the scene.

At least 44 people were admitted to the hospital with injuries and burns. Seventeen of them including the locomotive driver have been hospitalized, one in critical condition.

The official representative of the North Caucasian railway Evgeny Boevets told Interfax that during the derailment one of the cars released propane gas, enabling the flames spread to the locomotive.

"According to preliminary information, there was no explosion, instead, the tank caught fire. Despite the leakage of toxic methylene chloride, the concentration of toxic chemicals is not life-threatening, RIA Novosti quoted local authorities as saying.

At least 2,700 people have been evacuated from the area around the crash site and moved to temporary shelter in the local community centre. Nearby houses were severely damaged in the blast, with most windows in the area shattered by the shockwave. Over 190 emergency workers and 48 pieces of equipment were at the scene battling the fire. It will take at least two days to clean up the area after the incident, local authorities reported.

Source: <http://rt.com/news/oil-tanks-derail-russia-030/>

How to Determine What is Reasonably Practicable to Meet Health & Safety Duty

On 15 May 2013, Safe Work Australia released a document which provides guidance on the standard of health and safety that a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must meet under the Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act and Regulations. A copy of the new document is available at:

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/guide-reasonably-practicable>

Diamond Powder Coaters fined over fatal 2010 workplace explosion



Perth Magistrates Court has found that Diamond Powder Coaters, a Welshpool-based company, did not provide a safe workplace, and this led to the death of a worker using an angle grinder in 2010.

DPC was fined \$85,000 and pleaded guilty.

The drum had formerly contained methylated spirits, and exploded after fumes were ignited by a spark created by the grinder. The drum was reportedly thrown 20 metres by the blast

Source: safetowork

Massive Fines for Dangerous Goods Transport in South West Australia

Two truck drivers could face fines of tens of thousands of dollars after they were found to have seriously contravened dangerous goods transport regulations.

The drivers were stopped in Albany by Dangerous Goods Officers from the Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) and WA Police. Whilst conducting on road enforcement activities, the officers noticed that toxic and corrosive chemicals weren't securely restrained. "In addition, we will allege the vehicle had no emergency equipment or eyewash in the case of a spill, the fire extinguisher was out of service and the chemical load was poorly restrained," DMP Dangerous Goods Officer Peter Xanthis said.

A second vehicle was also issued with an infringement. "This truck had no firefighting equipment at all, again there was no emergency equipment, it had the wrong placarding and there were no breakdown triangles, so if the truck had to pull over on the side of the road, it could have been very dangerous for other motorists. "These situations put the driver, other road users and emergency response staff at serious risk."

DMP officers had just finished providing a three-day dangerous goods training course to Albany police when the vehicles were stopped.

Police officers in Albany and the wider Great Southern now hold nationally recognized qualifications in dangerous goods transport, meaning DMP has more 'eyes on the road', looking for drivers who are ignoring safety requirements.

The two drivers were given remediation notices, which requires all issues to be fixed within given timeframes.

Their companies will also be issued infringement notices.

Source: http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/7105_17610.aspx

W.A. Police Probe Caustic Soda Mix-Up

Five children and six adults are recovering from burns to their mouths and throats after a salt shaker containing caustic soda was sprinkled over their food at a West Australian fast food restaurant. Forensic police are heading an investigation into how the caustic soda came to be in the salt shaker. The powerful cleaner was sprinkled over chips served at a Chicken Treat store in Bunbury, south of Perth, leaving five children under 10 with burns. Six adults were also harmed after eating at the restaurant, with two so badly affected they were transferred to Perth for further treatment. Source: Tim Clarke, news.com.au



A Boeing 787 flight test jet taxi-ing following a test flight at Boeing Field in Seattle. Photo: AP

Boeing Dreamliner ‘Back in Business’

US regulators have approved a revamped battery system for Boeing Co’s 787 Dreamliner, a crucial step in returning the high-tech jet to service after it was grounded in January because its lithium-ion batteries overheated.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval of design changes allows Boeing to immediately begin making repairs to the fleet of 50 planes owned by airlines around the world.

The FAA action all but ends a grounding that has cost Boeing an estimated \$ 600 million, halted deliveries and forced some airlines to lease alternative aircraft. Several airlines have said they will seek compensation from Boeing, potentially adding to the plane maker’s losses.

The FAA said it will issue an “airworthiness directive” next week that formally lifts the US ban on passenger flights.

Nearly half of the planes in service are owned by Japanese carriers All Nippon Airways and Japan Airlines. Japan’s Civil Aviation Bureau (CAB), the counterpart of the FAA, gave a nod to the FAA’s approval. Japan has yet to decide whether it should require ANA and JAL to take additional measures to ensure the safety of the lithium-ion batteries used in the Dreamliner, Takano added.

He said he expected airlines to resume flying the planes in May. Much of the design change in the battery system already is well-known, thanks to Boeing’s detailed descriptions of the system to customers, legislators and media. Before the planes can fly, they must be fitted with a “containment and venting” system for both lithium-ion batteries on the 787, the FAA said.

That includes a stainless-steel enclosure to prevent heat, fumes or fire from spreading if a battery overheats in flight. Batteries and battery chargers must also be replaced with different components, the FAA said.

In approving the change, the FAA is indicating that it believes Boeing’s fix is adequate to address the risk of fire on the plane. However, the NTSB continues to investigate what caused a battery to catch fire on the JAL plane in Boston. A second battery overheated during an ANA flight in Japan a few days later, prompting regulators to ground the Dreamliner.

Boeing has said its redesign addresses more than 80 potential causes, and therefore is more rigorous than if a single cause had been found. Source: Arab News



Fuel tanks on fire in Duque de Caxias, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Photo France24

Brazil: Massive Fuel-Depot Fire

One person died and seven other were injured when a huge fire destroyed at least six large fuel storage tanks outside Rio de Janeiro, local government sources said. The fire broke out in the storage area of fuel and lubricant distributor Petrogold in Duque de Caxias, a municipality in the Rio metropolitan area, and it took firefighters four hours to bring it under control.

The flames, which could be seen several kilometers (miles) away, spread to six fuel tanks and part of the administrative facilities at the site, which firefighters had difficulty accessing due to explosions caused by the blaze. Given the difficulty of fighting the fire directly within the storage area, firefighters from six stations deployed to battle it were limited to a great extent to spraying water on the roofs and the yards of nearby homes to try and prevent the flames from spreading. Firefighters also ordered the evacuation of residents in homes on six streets near the site, which is close to the highway linking the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Teresopolis.

Source: Hindustan Times

Halon in Australia: Fire Protection Association Newsletter

Originally used widely as a firefighting agent, halon is now recognized as an aggressive ozone-depleting substance. Australia continues to be a world leader in the phasing out and responsible management of halon. The National Halon Bank is a vital component in Australia's Halon management Strategy. You can read an article on the National Halon Bank and the disposal and purchase of Halon by Carlos Santin, Executive Officer, Fire Protection 90DS & SGG) Board at:

http://www.fpaa.com.au/media/72530/940_gasbag_newsletter_autumn_2013_fa_lr.pdf



Residents of Kunming protest against a planned petrochemical refinery. (photo: Grace Tan)

China: Protests against Petrochemical Plant

In middle May, the southern Chinese city of Kunming saw its second large-scale protest in less than a month, with more than 1,000 citizens taking to the streets to oppose plans to build a petrochemical refinery and by-product paraxylene (PX) plant 30 kilometres away.

Source: <http://www.sbs.com.au>



Falmouth Docks holds up to 4,500 tonnes of ammonium nitrate and residents fear thousands of tonnes of fertiliser stored in a Cornish town could cause a mass explosion. Falmouth Docks holds up to 4,500 tonnes of ammonium nitrate - a fertiliser - which, if heated or ignited, can explode. People in the town said they were concerned it was a "potential risk". Dock operator A&P Falmouth and Cornwall Council, which issued a storage licence, acknowledged there were risks, but said they were managed. Source: BBC News



Emergency services respond to the chemical spill

Ammonium Nitrate Truck Fire in W.A.

The chemicals being carried by a triple road train involved in a double fatality overnight may have increased the severity of the fire that was sparked when it collided with a car.

The major crash unit is investigating a fatal crash near Wubin, in which a triple road train collided with a utility vehicle, claiming the lives of two men.

The triple road train, carrying ammonium nitrate, used in explosives, collided with the utility on the Great Northern Highway.

Read more: <http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/two-men-dead-in-wubin-truck-crash-20130523-2k26I.html#ixzz2UNycfBst>

N.Z. Tanning Firm to be Prosecuted over Chemical Spill

Tasman Tanning is to face prosecution over a chemical spill in Wanganui last November which injured 21 of its workers, two of them seriously. Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment spokesman Britton Broun yesterday confirmed that the ministry had finished its six-month investigation into the incident and the Wanganui tannery would be in court in June. Mr Broun could not say what charges the company would face. "We cannot provide any further information until the matter is called before the Wanganui District Court on June 6," he said.

The incident happened on November 2, 2012, at Tasman Tanning's plant. Two workers were flown to Wellington Hospital in a critical but stable condition after a mix-up with chemicals created a cloud of hydrogen sulphide. Another 19 people exposed to the gas were assessed at Wanganui Hospital.

Mr. Tait later said the incident would have to be put down to operator error. "Sulphuric acid was added to the wrong processor at the plant and the combination with the chemicals in that processor caused the hydrogen sulphide cloud," he said. Mr. Tait said the two injured workers were "very good, long-standing employees with excellent work records". "We all make mistakes, but all these procedures we have are being investigated by the appropriate government people."

Mr Tait said all staff were kept up to date about handling chemicals and it was something the company regularly revisited.

Source: Wanganui Chronicle

Potential Exposure to Formaldehyde Whilst Using Keratin Treatments

N.S.W. WorkCover Safety Alert for Hairdressers and Beauty Salon Operators and Workers

Goto:

<http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/formspublications/publications/Documents/formaldehyde-using-keratin-safety-alert-3988.pdf>

Worker Killed in Bunker Tank Blast

A worker was killed while another one is in serious condition when the bunker tank of an asphalt plant exploded in Barangay Paligui, Apalit town on Tuesday.

Superintendent Homer Penecilla, chief of police of Apalit, said the victims, who are workers of the 4B Construction Corporation, were installing pipes at the top of the bunker tank using a welding machine when the explosion happened.

According to reports, the heat from the welding machine might have caused the explosion.

A fire started after the explosion.

Source: Ric Sapnu, Sun Star, Pampanga

Toxic chemical cloud over Frankfurt

A poisonous cloud containing a potentially cancer-causing chemical was accidentally released over Frankfurt with residents of two districts warned to stay indoors throughout the afternoon. The cloud of nitrobenzene escaped after an accident at a chemical plant belonging to the firm Clariant in an industrial park near the Höchst district of the city.

Nitrobenzene, a substance used in the production of car paint, is considered highly dangerous if breathed in or swallowed, and can easily be absorbed through the skin. It is also considered carcinogenic and prolonged exposure can damage the liver, lungs, and central nervous system.

Both the cause of the accident and the exact quantity of the chemical released were not initially revealed, though the Infraserp spokesman spoke of a "small amount."

The fire brigade sprayed water onto the chemical in an attempt to contain the leak.

Source: The Local, Germany's News in English



Chemical Explosion at Wirral, U.K.

A chemical firm has been fined £120,000 for its part in a chemical explosion that left one employee with severe burns. The employee was engulfed by a fireball at a factory in the Wirral.

He was kept in an induced coma for seven weeks following the explosion at SAFC Hitech Ltd's plant in Bromborough in early 2011. The company was subsequently prosecuted by the HSE following an investigation into the incident. The victim was left with burns to his face, right arm and upper body.

On April 29th, Liverpool Crown Court heard that the company had been manufacturing a chemical called trimethylindium which is used in the production of LEDs and in the semi-conductor industry. Early into his shift, the worker entered the waste deactivation area where the waste in the glass bottle exploded. This resulted in shards of glass being catapulted across the yard.

The victim claims not to remember the incident however one of his colleagues reported seeing him 'running around in a ball of flames'. The employee was taken to a specialist burns unit where he was put into an induced coma. He remained in hospital for almost three months and still has extensive scars and difficulty moving.

SAFC Hitech Ltd pleaded guilty to single breaches of the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 and the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974.

The charges mostly relate to,

- failing to carry out a suitable risk assessment for dealing with the waste produced by the TMI purification process,**
- failings in supervision and monitoring,**
- and failing to ensure the safety of employees.**

Source: ATEX

Chinese Rice Mills Investigated: AAP

Authorities are investigating rice mills in southern China following tests that found almost half of the staple grain in one of the country's largest cities was contaminated with a toxic metal.

An official notice said mills in Hunan province's Youxian county were ordered to suspend business and recall their products after samples showed excessive cadmium levels.

The government announced over the weekend that 44.4 per cent of rice and rice products tested this year in neighbouring Guangzhou showed high levels of cadmium. The carcinogenic metal can seriously damage the kidneys and cause other health problems. China's food supply suffers from tainting by polluted air and water and deliberate faking or adulterating by unscrupulous operators.



The employee was engulfed by a fireball at a factory in the Wirral.

Mexico Authorities Seek Charges in LPG Tanker-Truck Blast That Killed 24

Mexico's transportation authorities have asked federal prosecutors to seek criminal charges against those found responsible for the deaths of 24 people after a tanker truck carrying liquefied petroleum gas crashed on a highway near Mexico City, and part of its cargo exploded in a poor neighborhood and destroyed dozens of homes and cars.

In a complaint filed with federal prosecutors, the Transport Ministry said the truck was carrying two tanks of LPG with a combined capacity of about 90,000 liters when the accident occurred. One of the two tanks exploded in the community of San Pedro Xalostoc just north of Mexico City, sending fire through dozens of homes.

The initial death toll of 20 people had climbed to 24, according to the Transport Ministry, with 29 injured, 16 damaged vehicles and 45 homes completely or partially destroyed. The highway was also damaged, the Ministry said.

The truck was driven by Juan Omar Diaz Olivares, 36 years old, and with nearly 10 years as a licensed heavy-truck driver, the ministry said.

Authorities in Mexico state said a judge had issued an arrest warrant for the driver, who was taken to the hospital in serious condition after the accident and placed under temporary detention. The arrest warrant was for alleged homicide, injuries against persons, and damage to property, the state government said. Local media reported that the driver has been unconscious and unable to make any statement.

While the gas tanks on the truck bore the name of the gas-distribution company Termogas, the ministry said the truck was being operated by transportation company Transportes Migar.

Source: Laurence Iliff, The Wall Street Journal

Photos: <http://www.demotix.com/news/2034554/devastation-oil-tanker-crash-and-blast-mexico-city-suburb#media-2034325>

Good and Bad Mine Blasts: Video

Compiled footage showing the huge difference between good and bad mine blasts.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fEJcyMNfII>



Photo: Mexico Trucker Online



Photo: www.dailymail.co.uk



Photo: Reuters

Sensor Glove Changes Colour in the Presence of Hazardous Substances

Security takes top priority in laboratories and in production. In the future, employees exposed to risks will only have to put on a glove in order to receive a toxic substance warning: This textile identifies poisonous substances, and points them out immediately. Employees in chemical production or in laboratories are frequently exposed to harmful substances. The problem: Many of these aggressive substances are imperceptible to human senses, which makes handling them so risky.

There is a broad range of solutions that employers can use to protect their staff from hazardous substances – from highly sensitive measuring equipment to heat imaging cameras. This spectrum could be enhanced by one more solution that is easy to handle, and that dispenses with a power supply.

Researchers at the Fraunhofer Research Institution for Modular Solid State Technologies EMFT in Germany have engineered a glove that recognises if toxic substances are present in the surrounding air.

The protective glove is equipped with custom-made sensor materials and indicates the presence of toxic substances by changing colours. The scientists adapted the materials to the corresponding analytes, and thus, the application.

The colour change – from colourless (no toxic substance) to blue (toxic substance detected), for example – warns the employee immediately. “By synthesizing the adapted colour sensor materials, we can detect gases like carbon monoxide, for example, or hydrogen sulfide. Still, this protective gear represents only one potential area of application. Sensor materials could also be deployed for the quick detection of leaks in gas lines,” explains Dr. Sabine Trupp, head of the Fraunhofer EMFT Sensor Materials group.

The warning signal is triggered by an indicator dye integrated into the glove that reacts to the presence of analytes, in this case, the toxic substances.

For this purpose, the scientists integrated the dye molecules either into commercial pigments or they built them up on an entirely synthetic basis.

Read full story: <http://www.safetowork.com.au/news/sensor-glove-changes-colour-in-the-presence-of-1>



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photographs that
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informing our
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Governments 'to Phase Out' Five Dangerous Chemicals

Governments have agreed to phase out the use of the toxic chemical HBCD, and restrict trade in four other dangerous substances, the head of the UN's anti-pollution division says. Jim Willis, executive secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, told reporters on Friday as a two-week international conference wrapped up in Geneva.

The conference agreed to ban the production and use of HBCD from next year, albeit with a five-year grace period for its use as a flame-retardant in polystyrene building insulation.

HBCD, or hexabromocyclododecane, is also used in interior textile fittings for vehicles as well as packaging materials. It is considered a "persistent organic pollutant" — chemicals which linger in the environment, enter the food chain and thereby pose risks to human health and nature.

Such chemicals are overseen by the Stockholm Convention, finalised in the Swedish capital in 2001 and which to date has drawn in 179 nations.

A separate accord, the 1998 Rotterdam Convention, restricts trade in chemicals by obliging exporters to ensure that destination countries have been fully informed about the risks involved and have given an explicit green light for imports.

A total of 152 nations have signed up to that accord, and the parties agreed to add four chemicals to its list: the insecticide azinphos-methyl; perfluorooctanesulfonates, which can be used as water repellents; and two forms of flame-retardant, pentabromodiphenyl ether and octabromodiphenyl ether.

Delegates failed, however, to slap similar trade restrictions on the pesticide paraquat, in the face of resistance piloted by India. In addition, they were unable to reach a consensus on adding chrysotile asbestos — which health experts say causes cancer — to the list.

Past efforts to do so were long stymied by Canada, a major producer until the government withdrew support to the industry last year. With Ottawa taking a back seat, the baton was picked up by Zimbabwe and Russia, the globe's top asbestos producer. Unlike the 180-nation Basel Convention of 1989, which governs exports of toxic waste notably from rich to poor countries, the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions lack compliance mechanisms and have to rely on countries honouring their pledges.

Source: AAP

Canadian Sawmill Blast Caused by Wood Dust Accumulation

The Vancouver Sun says a British Columbia Safety Authority investigation has concluded the root cause of the explosion at the Babine Forest Products sawmill, which killed two workers and injured 20 others in January 2012, was a failure to recognize and manage the explosive risks of wood dust.

The BCSA report, completed four months ago, provides the first details of investigations into the explosion and fire at the mill near Burns Lake in northern B.C. According to the newspaper, the investigation identified the possible ignition of the explosion as an electrical control panel, a high-watt bulb or an earlier fire.

An area below the band saw in the basement was identified as the possible area of the explosion, but the safety authority noted WorkSafeBC had identified a possible area of origin near a waste conveyor.

The safety authority investigation also found electrical equipment in the basement was not approved or configured for safe operation in a combustible dust environment. "Therefore the normal operation of this electrical equipment presented possible ignition sources for either a fire or the explosion and their possible contribution to the incident could not be ruled out," said the report.

2011 U.S. Combustible Dust Fact Sheet

Fact Sheet

2011 Combustible Dust Related
Incidents
U.S.A. Manufacturing Facilities

National Fire Incident Reporting System
(NFIRS) Analysis

Combustible Dust Policy Institute

To see this Slide Show goto:

<http://www.slideshare.net/watermon/fact-sheet-2011-combustible-dust-related-incidents>

Previous CNN report-- An explosion at a sawmill in western Canada has killed one person and injured 23 others)



Photo: www.cbc.ca



Image courtesy of Lindsey Seavert on Twitter

Malting and Biomass Mashup

An explosion rocked the city of Shakopee, Minnesota, in what has been seen as a malting/ biomass mashup. The company caught up in the controversy has been named as Koda Energy who supply energy and heat for nearby neighbor Rahr malting. The explosion took place inside two silos that contained wood chips and oat hulls.

Original reports were calling it a biomass plant explosion after silos were seen blazing in the wake of the blast. You can see that see that the roof had bulged as it had to take all the pressure of the explosion and the flame coming out of the column. It looks like a bucket elevator hood exploded so the ignition could have come from the moving buckets. There were 7 workers onsite at the time of the explosion and thankfully none of them were injured. The fact the explosion took place in two silos indicates that it may have been a case of one explosion not being isolated and propagating to the second silo unchecked. Rahr Malting is a family owned business that began in 1847. It produces and distributes malt and industry-related brewing supplies. Koda is a renewable energy partnership between the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and Rahr.

Source: <http://www.kare11.com/news/article/1023181/14/Explosion-reported-near-malting-plant-in-Shakopee>

Airgas Reopens Portion of Putnam U.S.A. Facility after Explosion

A part of a company rocked by a series of explosions in Putnam County reopened on Wednesday. Dozens of containers of Acetylene gas blew up Monday afternoon at Airgas near Poca. Two employees were taken to the hospital with burns. The employees are still recovering, but expected to be okay.

OSHA is investigating to try and figure out what happened. Company officials say the facility is once again distributing propane, but the acetylene unit is still shut down. Watch story: <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Explosion-Reported-at-Airgas-207253401.html>

NICNAS Chemical Gazette: May, 2013

Is now available for download from:

http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/Chemical_Gazette/Chemical_Gazette_May_2011.asp

U.K. New Standard to Reduce Contamination Risk from Ground Gases

BSI, the UK's National Standards Body, has published a new standard that will help to reduce the potential risks to people, buildings and the general environment from contaminated land and "brownfield" sites where toxic ground gases exist. Emissions from these sites during redevelopment have to be monitored properly to ensure they meet UK regulations for safety.

Inadequate investigation for ground gas is likely to result in refusal of planning permission or at least delays in obtaining permission. BS 8576 Guidance on investigations for ground gas will enable this investigation process. The standard provides guidance on ground gases, volatile organic compounds and permanent gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and oxygen. It is intended for use with BS 10175 Investigations of potentially contaminated sites - Code of practice.

Some of the key features of the standard include:

***A framework for assessing development sites and the risks posed by gassing sites (areas where ground gases are present) to neighbouring land and developments**

***Guidance to investigations of gases under part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Environmental Damage Regulations**

***For clarity and time-saving, text is provided in a combined format especially in areas where two or more common issues and the approach to investigating them occurs together**

BS 8576 has been created through the collaboration of experts within the field such as the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Environment Agency and the Institution of Civil Engineers. It will be of particular interest to consultants and regulators such as the local authority Contaminated Land Officers, those enforcing Building Regulations and the National Housebuilding Council (NHBC).

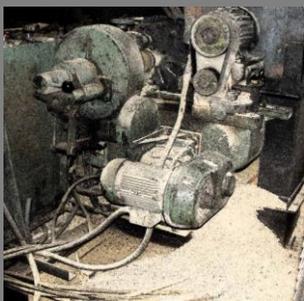
David Fatscher, Head of Market Development for Sustainability at BSI says: "Amongst other guidance, BS 8576 provides a clear framework on which gases can and cannot be assessed, ensuring that measurements meet UK requirements. Since carbon dioxide and methane are both powerful greenhouse gases, their uncontrolled release from landfills into the atmosphere contributes to climate change and by using BS 8576, release can be minimized."

Source: HazardEx

Combustible dust is made up of fine particles that present an explosion hazard when suspended in air under certain conditions.

A dust explosion can be catastrophic and cause employee deaths, injuries and destruction of entire buildings.

Detailed information on combustible dust hazards and safeguards is available at <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/combustibledust/index.html>.



New York Wood Shavings Manufacturer Fined for Combustible Dust, Confined Space, Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical Hazards

OSHA cited RWS Manufacturing Inc. for a total of 28 alleged willful, repeat and serious violations of workplace safety and health standards at its Queensbury manufacturing plant. The company, which makes wood shavings for animal bedding, faces a total of \$233,870 in proposed fines. “The sizable penalties proposed here reflect the breadth and severity of the hazardous conditions found at this plant. Left uncorrected, they exposed workers to the dangers of fires and explosions, engulfment, toxic or oxygen-deficient atmospheres, hearing loss, struck-by injuries, amputation, electrocution, and hazardous chemicals,” said Kimberly Castillon, OSHA’s area director in Albany. “The fact that a catastrophic incident has not occurred does not absolve this employer of its responsibility to reduce and prevent risk and eliminate hazards that could injure or kill its workers.”

Inspections by OSHA’s Albany Area Office found hazardous accumulations of explosive, combustible wood dust on structural supports, pipes, fixtures, ductwork, equipment and floors. Furthermore, workers were allowed to smoke in areas where excessive wood dust and wood shavings were present and the plant’s dust collection system lacked a fully enclosed motor and grounded or bonded ductwork. The accumulation of wood shavings, as deep as 1 foot in some locations, also posed a slip and fall hazard.

In addition, the plant did not develop and implement a confined space entry program and provide training, warning signs and retrieval systems to protect workers in confined spaces; workers exposed to excessive noise levels were not provided a hearing conservation program, training, a choice of hearing protection and audiometric testing; respirator users were not provided necessary information; there was a lack of information and training on hazardous chemicals; powered industrial trucks were not inspected and/or were operated by untrained operators; and required guarding and fire watches were not used and maintained when welding near flammable wood shavings. Additional hazards include unguarded moving machine parts, exposed live electrical parts, ungrounded equipment and improperly stored oxygen cylinders. The citations can be viewed online at:

http://www.osha.gov/ooc/citations/RWS_H.pdf