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Society of Fire Protection Engineers

New Jersey Chapter

FUSIBLE LINK

NOVEMBER 2009

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President's Message...

Members:

In October we had our annual bus ride to a destination of interest. This year's event was a great success. We toured the fabulous Viking Yacht manufacturing plant in New Gretna, NJ and got to tour an 82-foot luxury floating palace which for most of us is a once in a life time event. We lunched at the Renault Winery and toured that plant too and sampled their final product. A few bottles even made the trip back home. It was a great trip that will be hard to top..... but we will try ! October was also the month of the annual SFPE International conference and training seminar. This year it was held in Phoenix, Arizona at the Double Tree Hotel and Resort. International President Dick Davis presided and officiated at the Annual Fellow Award ceremony. Our own Sarge Slicer and Joe Janiga received their Fellow Grades before society members, friends and peers. Congratulations to both Sarge and Joe for their many years of service to SFPE, the Chapter and to the fire protection community at large. Finally, I want to remind all our members to continue to support our Chapter by participating at meetings, sharing experiences with members and spreading the word about SFPE to our younger engineers. If you look at your Chapter leaders you will see more "seasoned" professionals. This is what makes our Chapter strong and viable. But we need to include in our base younger generations of engineers, those who we will eventually pass the SFPE torch and keep this "thing of ours" healthy and relevant. So think about bringing a younger associate to one of our dinner meetings. Thanks for your continued support. See you all November 2-

Rich Reitberger
NJSFPE Chapter President

Report on Smoke Alarms in U.S. Home Fires

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
September 11, 2009

Almost all households in the U.S. have at least one smoke alarm, yet in 2003-2006, smoke alarms were present in only 69% of all reported home fires and operated in just under 47% of the reported home fires.

Forty percent of all home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms, while 23% resulted from homes in which smoke alarms were present but did not operate. The death rate per 100 reported fires was twice as high in homes without a working smoke alarm as it was in home fires with this protection. Hardwired smoke alarms are more reliable than those powered solely by batteries.



Other key findings from Smoke Alarms in U.S. Home Fires:

- Smoke alarm failures usually result from missing, disconnected, or dead batteries. In one-fifth of all homes with smoke alarms, none were working
- Most homes still have smoke alarms powered by batteries only
- People 55 or older were more likely to have smoke alarms that were more than 10 years old. (Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years)
- More than half of home fire deaths that occurred where no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms were present happened between 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m
- The death rate per 1,000 reported fires is 84% lower when hardwired smoke alarms and wet pipe sprinklers are present



**U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD***An independent federal agency investigating chemical accidents to protect workers, the public, and the environment.*

CSB Releases New Safety Video, “Runaway: Explosion at T2 Laboratories” Depicting Reactive Chemical Accident that Killed Four and Injured 32

Washington, DC, September 22, 2009 – The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today released a new nine-minute computer animated safety video depicting a tragic reactive chemical accident that devastated T2 Laboratories in Jacksonville, Florida.

Entitled “Runaway: Explosion at T2 Laboratories,” the video details the December 19, 2007, accident involving a thermal runaway chemical reaction at a small chemical manufacturer. The video includes a 3-D computer animation of the sequence of events leading to the runaway reaction and resulting explosion and fire.

The video is available for viewing and downloading on the [CSB's website](http://www.csb.gov) as well as the agency's [YouTube channel](http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=USCSB) <http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=USCSB>

Free DVDs can be requested by completing the [online request form](#) in the Video Room of [CSB.gov](http://www.csb.gov).



T2 Laboratories was attempting to produce a batch of the gasoline additive MCMT when the reactor cooling system apparently malfunctioned – perhaps due to a blockage in the water supply piping or a valve failure. As the video shows, the temperature of the material in the reactor rose uncontrollably. The rupture disk burst on the reactor, but it was too late to relieve the pressure and the entire vessel blew apart, killing four workers including one of the company's two owners. Four other T2 employees and 28 workers at nearby businesses were also injured.

The CSB's final report on the accident was approved at a public meeting in Jacksonville on September 15; the Board recommended increased education of undergraduate chemical engineers on reactive chemistry hazards. CSB Safety Videos were recently recognized by the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) organization, which presented its first-ever Fire Safety Editorial Board Classics Award to the CSB.

The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems.

The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, www.csb.gov For more information, contact Director of Public Affairs Dr. Daniel Horowitz, 202-261-7613, cell 202-441-6074.

Imperial Sugar Company Explosion

Below is an excerpt from the final report prepared by the CSB. Note that this portion of the report refers to a property loss prevention inspection completed by a large insurance carrier. Being that many in our membership hold positions or provide similar services, an important note to keep one's education current to those hazards for which we provide important consultancy to our clients.

If you have 9 1/2 minutes to spare go to the following link on YouTube to get a video recreation of the incident and what factors led to this disaster.
<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=USCSB#p/u>

To get complete 84-page report go to: <http://www.chemsafety.gov/newsroom/detail.aspx?nid=287>

U.S. CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD INVESTIGATION BOARD



INVESTIGATION REPORT

Report No. 2008-05-I-GA

September 2009

SUGAR DUST EXPLOSION AND FIRE (14 Killed, 36 Injured)



IMPERIAL SUGAR COMPANY

PORT WENTWORTH, GEORGIA

FEBRUARY 7, 2008

KEY ISSUES:

- COMBUSTIBLE DUST HAZARD RECOGNITION
- MINIMIZING COMBUSTIBLE DUST ACCUMULATION IN THE WORKPLACE
- EQUIPMENT DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE

Report No. 2008-05-I-GA
September 2009

3.7.2 Property Risk Insurers

Property insurance carriers conduct facility audits to determine a client's relative insurance risk. Zurich Services Corporation (Zurich) conducted such an audit of the Port Wentworth facility in April 2007 and submitted a "Property Policyholder Risk Improvement Report" to company management in May 2007, which said

This entire facility was toured during this visit, to evaluate the physical aspects of property loss prevention ... The evaluation consisted of a review of building construction; existing occupancies operations; storage arrangements; general housekeeping; management loss prevention and self-inspections programs...

The CSB investigators reviewed Imperial Sugar documents including photographic records, incident reports, quality assurance self-audits, and employee statements about sugar spillage and dust accumulation dated before and after the Zurich audit. The CSB concluded that typical sugar accumulations shown in the photos contained in this report most likely existed at the time of the audit, and in the months after the auditor visited the site. However, the Zurich audit report did not mention spilled sugar and sugar dust accumulation in the areas visited by the auditor.⁴⁰

Zurich told the CSB that they conduct combustible dust hazard awareness training for their facility auditors. They provided the CSB with copies of two comprehensive combustible dust hazard awareness training slide presentations titled "Dust Explosion Prevention and Control" and "Science of a Dust Explosion." This training was developed by Senior Risk Engineers and contained about 79 pages of combined dust awareness training. In September 2007, both sessions were delivered to their personnel who conduct risk assessments. However, Zurich acknowledged that they did not share these training materials with Imperial Sugar Company or other clients who handle combustible dust.

In the three dust explosion incidents investigated by the CSB in 2003 (CTA Acoustics, Inc.; West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc.; and Hayes Lemmerz International), risk insurer facility audits failed to identify combustible dust hazards. The CSB made a formal recommendation to the Risk Insurance Management Society, Inc.⁴¹ to "communicate the findings and recommendations of [the Hayes Lemmerz] report to your members" (CSB, 2005). In response to the recommendation the organization posted a link to the CSB investigation on its website in December 2005, a link that was later removed. Additionally, its website contains no information about risks associated with combustible dust in the workplace.

⁴⁰ The Zurich auditor told the CSB that the company is notified ten days in advance of a planned insurance audit. Furthermore, the audit focused on property loss risk in anticipation of the upcoming hurricane season.

⁴¹ The Risk Insurance Management Society, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing the practice of risk management www.rims.org, 2009.

Meeting Dates/Programs 2009-2010

DATE	TOPIC
November 2	IBC Fire Code Changes—John Drucker, Deputy Fire Marshall—Red Bank
December 7	MIC (Microbiologically Influenced Corrosion) Update—Pete Carey, Potter Electric Signal Co.
January 4	Fire Pump Update—Bill Casey
February 1	Earthquake - Construction and Mitigation Analysis—EQ CAT
March 1	HVLS (High Volume Low Speed) Fan Update
April 23	Annual Technical Seminar (possibly joint with AFAA)
May 3	Pop up Curbs—Flammable Liquids
June 14	FM Global Standards Update
June 21	Golf Outing—West Point



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HELPFUL LINKS

ADAAG <http://www.access-board.gov/adaag/about/index.htm>

AFAA National <http://www.affaa.org/>

AFFSA <http://www.firesprinkler.org/>

ANSI <http://web.ansi.org/>

ASHRAE <http://www.ashrae.org/>

Campus-Firewatch <http://www.campus-firewatch.com/>

Coffee Break Training <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/coffee-break/>

CPSC <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

CSAA <http://www.csaaul.org/>

Municipal Codes (E Codes) <http://www.generalcode.com/Webcode2.html>

FDNY <http://nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml>

FM Global <http://www.fmglobal.com/>

FSDANY <http://www.fsdany.org/regs.htm>

FSI <http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/>

FSSA <http://www.fssa.net/>

Fire Tech Productions—Nicet Training (FTP) <http://www.firetech.com/>

Home Fire Spklr Coalition <http://www.homefiresprinkler.org/>

HVAC Bld. Control Fire Safety <http://www.iklimnet.com/hotelfires/hotelfiresmain.html>

AFAA-NJ <http://www.affaanj.org/>

International Code Council - <http://www.iccsafe.org/>

International Code Council Residential Sprinkler Exam - http://www.iccsafe.org/news/nr/2009/0709_ResidentialSprinklerExam.pdf

The Joint Commission (JCAHO) - <http://www.jointcommission.org/www.JointCommission.org/>

Material safety data Sheets (MSDS-OSHA Site) - <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hazardcommunications/index.html>

National of Fire Equipment Distributors (NAFED) - <http://www.nafed.org/index.cfm>