

SAFETY FLASH

APRIL 2024

EXPERIENCES FROM ACCIDENTS

For your information : APLICA has created a declaration form for accidents / incidents / dangerous situations that every tank cleaning can fill in and send by mail with the goal to share their experience with this event and to avoid such an accident happens in other cleaning station.

You find below the main accidents of the year 2023 which you can communicate to your operators.

RECENT ACCIDENTS

🕒 **January 2023 – Intoxication**

When a tank was cleaned which transported waste classified in the ADR as non dangerous, *the operator cleaning the dip has respired vapours present in the tank. He had breathing difficulties and went back on the walkway. The embarrassment persisted and when he went down the stairs he lost his consciousness.*

Identification of the cause : Non respect of the safety instructions obliging a face mask with filter When cleaning all kind of wastes.

SAFETY REFLEX : Respect strictly the internal instructions for wearing respirations masks in function of the products cleaned and used..



ATTENTION : A TANK WITHOUT ADR LABELS DOES NOT MEAN IT IS NOT DANGEROUS !

🕒 **August 2023 – chemical burn**

When cleaning a tank with solvent, the cleaner has handled a bin with solvent which is spilled on his boot and came in contact with his skin, causing a chemical burn at the height of his foot.



Identification of the cause : a hole in the boor (defect at the seams)

SAFETY REFLEX : Check regularly the condition of your PPE s and if they are leak-proof (boots, gloves, work cloths,...) and replace them in case of any problems. In case of discomfort (Like itch for example), remove the PPE for verifying that there was no contact with a chemical product.

🕒 **October 2023 – Tank under pressure**

When the operator wanted to open an unaccompanied tank by unscrewing the 2 external screws of the spill-box cover, an abnormal pressure in the tank opened violently the spill-box cover and the man-lid of the tank. The head of the operator was hit by closing system of the spill-box cover.

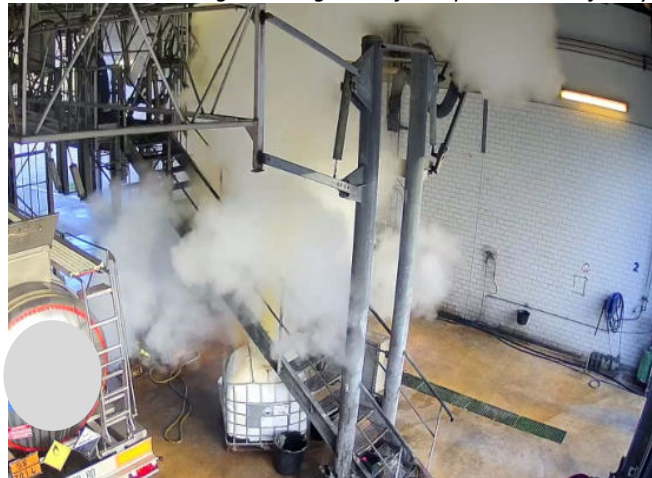
Identification of the causes :

- Unlocking of the spill-box cover with a hammer → not suitable tool for the task carried out
- Access to the air-valve for pressure relaxation not possible (situated under the spill-box cover)
- The client did not inform the cleaning station that the tank was under pressure and the man-lid was not locked with the swing bolts

SAFETY REFLEX : Take in consideration all information of the cleaning order before any intervention on an unaccompanied tanks and release the pressure before each opening.

🕒 **November 2023 – Incompatibility between chemical products**

Before the cleaning of a tank which transported hydrogen peroxide, The operator on the floor level recuperated a big amount of rest product which he put in an IBC used for the storage of non-dangerous residues collected from non-ADR tanks. This caused a violent reaction generating a lot of overpressure and finally bursting of the IBC.



Identification of the causes :

- Lack in checking the emptiness of the tank by the operator on top of the tank before the cleaning.
- This product should have not have been recovered according to the instructions given on the work order.

SAFETY REFLEX : Do not mix incompatible chemical products and respect the instructions on the work order.

MESSAGE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSONNEL

Do not hesitate pas to inform your hierarchical responsible about alle abnormal or dangerous situations and do not hide an event (accident / near miss, ...) which could have had serious consequences !