



Potential Fatal Event: Pressurized Acid Exposure

Preliminary Incident Details

Operation	Chino
Date / Time	October 4, 2023 / 8:27 a.m.
Type	Injury
Summary	A mechanic was cutting the bolts off the flange of a depressurized acid tank car when there was a sudden and unexpected burst of pressurization, causing acid to spray into the air. The employee was wearing a face shield but not other personal protective equipment. A small amount of acid got on the neck of the employee, who immediately rinsed off at the nearby safety shower.
Fatal Risk	Fire
Risk Category	Actionable
Pre / Post Rating	Significant (3) Likely (3)
Findings / Missing Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrong tool for the job – angle grinder used to cut bolt created a spark that ignited hydrogen buildup in the tank • Failure to monitor lower explosive limit before performing hot work • Failure to wear proper acid suit
Applicable Policies / Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCX-HS06 Hot Work Policy
Employee Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The worker was evaluated at the local clinic and allowed to return to work without restrictions. • Employee received first aid treatment, sustained small rash to the neck and head.
Contact	Joseph Lightner, Senior Supervisor-Mill, or Daniel Coyle, Senior Supervisor-Health and Safety

Photos / Links



Flange where bolt was cut.



Condition of overalls after exposure to acid.



Work platform above the acid tanker car.