

FATAL FACTS



No. 8775-023

Accident Type:	Tank Fire
Number of Fatalities	2
Weather Conditions:	Dry and Calm
Type of Operation:	Tack Welding
Size of Work Crew:	4
Competent Safety Monitor on Site:	No
Safety and Health Program in Effect:	Yes
Was the Worksite Inspected Regularly:	Yes
Training and Education Provided:	No
Employees Job Titles:	Metal Mechanic
Age & Gender:	51 and 55 Males
Experience at this Type of Work:	Decades
Time on Project:	1 day



BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

Four employees were in the process of securing metal pins onto the top of a 60,000 barrel petroleum storage tank. After returning from a lunch break, testing for the existence of flammable compounds was not conducted. The tank caught on fire and an explosion violently ruptured the top of the tank. Two employees were killed in the explosion. One employee was able to climb down a ladder. Another employee hung from his safety harness until the fire burned through his harness whereupon he fell to the ground. The survivors were hospitalized for burns and other injuries.

INSPECTION RESULTS

The investigation resulted in the issuance of four serious citations. The first citation was for not performing regular and frequent inspections of the workplace (19260020.b02). The second was for not conducting the proper training (19260021.b02). Citation three involved the lack of fire protection and prevention (19260024). The fourth citation was for conducting welding around flammable compounds (19260352.c)

ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations made include training all personnel in the dangers of flammable liquids and for performing frequent tests for flammable compounds at worksite.