

## SAFETY ALERT

**INCIDENT:** Two contract workers were engaged to shift Electrical scrap material in a trolley, in an open road at Co-Gen Plant. The trolley was moved by hand, with one contract worker at the front and one at the rear of the trolley. Suddenly, there was loud sound, heard during the movement of the trolley, in the middle of the road. The contract worker at the rear of the trolley had injuries in the left fingers, right leg, chest and face. He succumbed to his injury later on. The other worker did not suffer major injuries.



SITE PHOTOGRAPH:1



SITE PHOTOGRAPH:2



SITE PHOTOGRAPH:3

**OBSERVATIONS:** One piece of the Container had the details "PHOS A 85" with Manufacturing Date September 2010 was found near the spot.

**ROOT CAUSE:** "PHOS A 85", later identified as "Phosphoric Acid", was unused for a long time period and would have been in decomposed state. While carrying the scrap material, the Container may have fallen down. While pulling the Container back into the trolley, the pressure developed due to its decomposed form and agitation of the Container would have led to the Container bursting open. The chemical, coming in contact with the metal trolley, would have resulted in a violent exothermic reaction. The impact had formed a cavity in the road and the rear contract worker, who was trying to lift it back, got injured seriously

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** (1) Scrap material contents (mainly chemicals) should be identified before disposal. (2) Ensure safe disposal of any unused material after completion of job. (3) There should be an monitoring system to monitor all the chemical coming inside the industry.

**WORTH MENTION: Similar incident: May2008:** While decanting DMDS into system, the chemical splashed over the technician as its drum got pressurized and burst open. Resulted in death of that employee. **May 2016:** An incident took place in one Indian refinery while carrying out chemical cleaning job of neutralisation tank in Wet Oxidation unit, vapours gushed out from the manway, causing burn injuries to 3 persons. There was no fatality.

## STORY OF PPEs



Fenton made the career switch to construction, but an accident nearly transformed his dream job into a nightmare. While working as a crane rigger, Fenton was struck in the head by an 80-pound aluminium joist, which fell from the equivalent of nine floors up. Though the joist broke his neck and shoulder and punctured his lung, Fenton was wearing a helmet that deflected the weight of the joist from the centre of his head. Just 110 days after the accident, he was back at work. **"The helmet saved my life, there's no question in my mind,"** he says.

(Source: <https://www.mscdirect.com/betterMRO/safety/workplace-safety-stories-hard-hat-saved-my-life>)