

SAFETY ALERT

OISD/SA/2020-21/P&E/03

Dt.:16/11/2020

INTRODUCTION

Title: Fatal Incident at Ware House

Location: **One Polymer Manufacturing plant**

Loss/ Outcome: One Fatality

BRIEF OF INCIDENT:

The incident happened when a house keeping worker was engaged for collecting polymer sweep in one Polymer Ware House. He was doing his activity close to a place where polymer bags were stacked on wooden pallets. All of a sudden, polymer bags including wooden pallets collapsed and struck the person. Even though he was wearing safety helmet and other safety gears, but was seriously injured and later on succumbed to injury during treatment at hospital.

OBSERVATIONS/ SHORTCOMINGS

One of the 25 kg polymer bag at bottom layer was damaged and material spilled off from it leading to instability of the entire polymer stack, which later collapsed and struck the victim.



REASONS OF FAILURE/ ROOT CAUSE

- Damage of polymer bag at bottom layer caused instability of the polymer stack
- Loss of stacking stability due to change in shape of polymer bags because of prolonged storage and variation in temperature

*This Safety Alert is based on the Investigation report submitted by industry and published for information purpose only.
This information should be evaluated to determine if it is applicable in your operations, to avoid recurrence of such incidents.*

CONCLUSION

In warehouse operations, polymer bags occasionally get damaged by forklift or poor handling etc. Sometimes prolonged storage of polymer bags and variation in temperature cause deformity in shape of bags which ultimately lead to instability of the stack. Such unbalanced stacks become susceptible to collapse. Often near miss like fall of polymer bags etc. are overlooked or not investigated properly, which might be precursor of some bigger incident. At times, risk associated with activities like housekeeping are considered trivial and not paid much attention, but such generic risk assessment can be misleading and result in serious incidents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Industry shall implement & practice regular Inspection of bags & other material stacks and ensure immediate corrections for hazards.
- Replacing manual housekeeping activities with mechanized cleaning options could be good alternative to avoid human interfaces.
- Installing some indicative barriers for forklifts to prevent it from going close to polymer stacks while moving on aisles.
- Building competency of all concerned personnel such as forklift drivers, Housekeeping staff etc. through periodical and refresher training.
- Resistance to collapse, strength and the stability of stacks should be maintained by bonding, stepping, tying or other means. The ratio of height to base dimensions of large stacks should be correctly proportioned so that failure of part or whole of the stack does not occur. Stair (stepped)/ triangular principle for stacking of polymer bags should be followed, thus to minimize chance of accidental collapse of polymer stacks.
