

Tank Incident Number 13

Summary

Tank #201 - Orange State Oil Company, Tampa, Florida - December 1939

This incident investigated after one man had died and much desirable information not available.

Certain information is available about only one man [REDACTED] who died. There is good evidence to show that he spent at least 40 hours within the tank - more than any other workman. There is authenticated evidence of another death although the cause is not authenticated. This second man [REDACTED] was arrested for drunkenness and died in jail. It is reasonable to accept the hearsay evidence of the man's behavior as diagnostic of tetraethyllead intoxication. [REDACTED] had spent probably only 8 to 10 hours within the tank.

There is some hearsay evidence of 2 other men who had minor symptoms.

There had been a series of tanks cleaned by (largely) the same crew. This tank (201) was convicted because of the time relationships and also because it had been spiked. With our knowledge now (1963) and in retrospect it is very doubtful if spiking is an important factor in the establishment of dangerous conditions.

Series of tanks cleaned over period of several months.

One tank (201 at Tampa, Florida) regarded as responsible because of time relationships although other tanks might have contributed.

8 men on job.
2 critically ill and died.
2 mildly ill.

Factors responsible:

1. Failure to wear mask.
2. No skin protection.
3. Tank spiked.
4. Tank steamed.
5. Unusual proportion of working time spent within tank.

Sludge

Orange State Oil Company, Tampa, Florida. Sample
submitted by Mr. W.H. Phipps, Jacksonville, Florida.

Analysis No. 40A-0837

Organic lead - 8.5 mgs/10 gms sludge

% Organic lead - 0.085

Inorganic lead - 150 mgs/10 gms sludge

% Inorganic lead 1.5

Volatile lead (air passed over sludge)

Mgs lead found - 0.60 per 12 liters

- 0.05 mgs/liter

- 500.0 mgs/10 cu ft air

Samples Received: March 4, 1940

Samples Reported: May 9, 1940

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