

B.F. Goodrich Chemical Company

Inter-Organization Correspondence

RECEIVED

JAN 21 1969

To Dennie Dowell - Safety Supervisor

Date January 10, 1969

DEPT 5475

Location Cleveland

From P.W. Ormsby, Sr. Safety Eng.

ALOC

Subject: Near Miss Incident - VCL Spillage, Bldg. 414, Avon Lake Development Center

On January 6, 1969 at approximately 2230, , Operator, Process Building, #414 after having received 2800 pounds of VCL by pipeline from the BFG General Chemical Plant called on phone 281 (Gen. Chem. Plant) and asked them to shut off the pump. The person answering the phone replied O.K.

believing that the pump would be shut off left the vent and inlet valve to VCL No. 1 storage tank open to drain the lines and proceeded to charge G poly on 3rd floor. When returned to close the vent and inlet valve at 2240, the phone rang and he answered it. It was the pump operator at the General Chemical Plant calling to find out why it was taking so long to fill the storage tank. told him to shut the pump off and then ran to shut the vent and inlet valve to the storage tank. Upon reaching the tank the scale read 5000+ and by moving the tare bar to 500 found that the reading was 5500+.

Kenneth Roberts, shift foreman was notified immediately and it was found that VCL was on the roof of 414-417. The operator , immediately blew approximately 2790# of VCL to the 2nd floor storage tank on the west side to relieve the excessive amount in #1 storage tank.

Investigation revealed a three foot area on the roof covered with $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep VCL. The wind was blowing at approximately 20 mph from the north and dispersing the vapors readily. The vent from the storage tank is near the roof drain (roof drain is broken). However, it was thought that possibly some of the VCL had gone down the drain. All 1st floor sewers were immediately checked and a reading of 100% was found in several areas as well as at the truck dock outside west of building. The odor of VCL was present on the 1st floor, east side. All fire doors were closed, windows and doors were opened and water was flushed into the drains. By the time it was decided to kill the power to the building the vapors had subsided. All traffic in the plant was stopped by Plant Protection.

The industrial manhole was checked and a zero reading obtained. On returning to building #414-417 it was found that the truck dock drains were backing up. (Strainers at effluent pump had plugged. Nothing connected with this incident) They were left to overflow and permit the vapors to be blown away. (Gusty wind prevailing)

The 4" roof drain that extends from 3rd floor to 1st was frosted. Applied cold water to outside of same. Again checked industrial manhole and obtained a 35% reading. Checked the effluent bed and obtained a zero reading. By this time the roof drain was defrosting and little or no reading. At 0020, January 7, 1969 found all areas were clear.

Recommendations:

Roof drain to be repaired immediately. Investigation is under way to find why roof drains to the gutters inside building.

Operators will stay at the storage tank until the filling operation is completed. Do not endeavor to do two jobs at the same time.

(The operator was, however, a very conscientious person and endeavoring to do a good job.)

cc: J.L. Nelson - R.D. Scott
E.W. Harrington
G. Powell
W.E. Brodine
W.L. Cato

REDACTED

NGC 15640

P.W. Ormsby
Sr. Safety Engineer

Receiving
As requested
Jrk

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VCL Spillage Bldg 414 Jan 6, 1969

After receiving 2800 pounds of VCL from GCP,
into #1 VCL storage tank 1st floor Bldg 414
West side @ approx 2230. Process operator.

2 dept 5018-0029 called 281 at GCP and
stated (this is front plant, have received enough
VCL) operator @ GCP (name not known) said OK.

believeing pump would be shut off, left
vent and inlet valve to #1 storage tank open to drain
lines and proceeded to charge Spoly 3rd floor
West side. returned to close vent & inlet
valve, ^{@ 2240} on reaching 1st floor phone 379 rang.

Pump operator @ GCP was calling to see why we
were taking so long, (The pump man phone number
is 282. had called 281.) told him to shut
pump off and ran to shut vent & inlet valve to
storage tank. Scale read 5000 +, morning tare bar
to 500 had total of 5500#.

NGC 15641

D. Lee Roberts 5018-0066 (Foreman) was called
@ 2245 hrs that VCL was on roof of Bldg 414.

2

I went to check roof, operator immediately blew approx. 2790 # of VCL to 2nd floor storage tank west side to relief volume in #1 storage tank.

On roof found three foot area covered with VCL approx 1/2" deep. Wind blowing North North West @ 20 miles. Vent from storage tank is near roof drain, (roof drain is broken) at this time VCL had vaporized and was not running into roof drain,

but I thought maybe some did go down drain.

We immediately checked 1st floor sewers and had a reading of 100% by Phone Booth west side, gutter @ south east wall and at truck dock drains. Seems as our roof drains run back into the building.

Odor of VCL was present 1st floor East side, opened windows & doors, closed fire doors, ran water into drains. Thought about cutting power to building.

but odor had left area by then. Had a operator

call guard to stop all traffic in Plant and

alert foreman of Bldg #22. We had a team of 3 besides myself working on this spillage.

Checked industrial manhole got a zero reading.
Came back to building and found truck dock
drains backing up. (Strainers at effluent pump
had plugged nothing to do w/ this spillage)
but we left it overflow letting the wind
blow away all vapors.

Checked 4" roof drain running from
roof through 3rd, 2nd, & down to 1st was frosted
up. Applied cold water to outside of it.

Again checked industrial manhole - got 35%
reading. Checked effluent bed got zero reading.
Came back to building afraid that maybe
the 4" roof drain was full of liquid, ready
to shut power off. Found roof drain defrosting,
drains in building little or no readings.

Someone said roof was clear and @ 0020

Jan. 7 - 1969 building was clear.

Robert E.

B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company

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P.W. Ormsby
Sr. Safety Engineer

*Dist 1-14-69
Dennie R. Powell
1-15-69*