

Tank Incident #15

Brief Summary

Tank #T-1 - Tidewater Associated Oil Company, Baltimore, Maryland - August 1940

This tank was steamed two days prior to the start of cleaning. It had been in leaded gasoline service since 1933 and had not been cleaned since that date. Accurate history of in-tank exposure of the various men involved is not available but it is known that masks were either not used at all or at best only part time during procedures during the four days of cleaning, August 7, 8, 9 and 10. Of the 12 men on the job all are reported to have had some degree of illness excepting 3 who worked only one-half day - the last day of operations and at a time when the tank had been essentially cleaned.

The remarkable features are that of the nine sick men degree of illness varied from very mild to severe and fatal. Of the three severely ill men one succumbed, one recovered in reasonable time and one was reported to have had symptoms as late as 1943.

12 men involved on job
3 had no symptoms
9 men were ill
3 were severely ill
1 died

Factors responsible:

1. Failure to wear masks
2. Steaming of tank

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