

B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company

Inter-Organization Correspondence

10-4
S/B-10-4

To	D. L. Dowell	From	J. W. Gressler
Location	Cleveland	Location	Pedricktown
Department		Department	
Subject			Date
NEAR MISS - VINYL CHLORIDE ESCAPE (BLDG. 513), PEDRICKTOWN			April 22, 1971

On April 15, 1971 at 9:57 a.m., the Pearl-Paste Poly Building gas alarm was sounded. Poly #8 had been charged with 6,000 pounds of fresh VCl. The manhead opened releasing approximately 5,000 pounds into the building. The building was cleared of VCl and the all clear sounded at 10:05 a.m.

A Board of Inquiry was conducted immediately following the incident. The following people attended:

E. C. Martinelli
John Moran

J. W. Goetsch
J. W. Gressler
Jim Harrington

A. R. Webber
William West
Robert Zeli

Poly #8 was prepared for charging in the normal manner. The pre-charge check sheet was completed, a successful vacuum was pulled and the monometer check was satisfactory. _____ pointed out that he was having trouble closing the manhead. He called _____ on the two-way radio and asked for assistance. _____ reported to the second floor and helped _____ secure the manhead. Both men claim that the manhead was secure and the locking latch in place. At this point the vacuum was pulled and the charging operation started. _____ returned to the first floor. After added the catalyst and pushed the addition button, he went to the first floor to work on a plugged line. Several minutes had passed before Moran (working on the seal water rupture disc) and _____ detected VCl vapors. _____ immediately went to the second floor, saw the VCl, returned to the first floor and activated the master gas alarm. At this time, _____ did not know where the VCl was being released.

_____ (working on the first floor) went up the west fire escape. _____ checked for personnel lying on the floor. He did not see anyone. _____ then activated the fog system and emergency fans, entered and tried to close Poly #8 manhead. The vapors were too strong and his attempt was unsuccessful. _____, lead technician, entered the building with a Scott Air Pak and closed the manhead. (CORRECT WAY)

According to the check sheets and charging logs, all operating procedures were being followed.

NGC 15682

REDACTED

MAY 3 1971

MY OWN MY!
NO AIR
PAK

Investigation following the Inquiry revealed the following facts:

1. The VCl did not activate the gas analyzer. The air flow through the analyzer was found to be off.
2. The contact on the lenape manhead would always read closed.
3. After Poly #8 was recovered the manhead was opened. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to open the manhead accidentally.

Corrective Action:

1. All manhead contacts were checked. Three were found to be defective.
2. The computer logic has been changed to read the contact open while the poly is in the clean position. Previously this contact was not checked.
3. The air flow switch on the gas analyzer is at knee level. It is believed that the switch was accidentally turned off. A protective guard will be installed over the switch.
4. A technician will be on the floor until VCl has been started.
5. This incident will be given full publicity in all shift meetings.

Conclusions:

We found that our emergency fan switches would only activate the emergency fans on the floor which they are located. We are looking at the possibility of connecting all fans.

We believe the gas escape was caused by failure to secure the locking latch or the locking assembly was opened by mistake while the poly was under vacuum.

J. W. Gressler

JWG:rp

cc: O. F. Beckmeyer
J. L. Nelson - R. D. Scott
E. W. Harrington - P. H. Lawrence
G. Pow
W. E. Brodine
W. L. Cato

E. E. Mitchell - P. D. Terry
A. R. Webber
H. T. Evans
J. W. Goetsch - E. C. Martinelli - S. M. Evans
W. E. Horton
J. M. Smith
File

Fennie L. Howell
5-4-71

CIRCULATE IN TURN TO:

~~R. D. Scott~~

~~J. L. Nelson~~ APR 19 1971

~~O. F. Beckmeyer~~

~~E. W. Harrington~~

~~P. H. Lawrence~~

~~W. E. Brodine~~

~~E. E. Mitchell~~

~~F. D. Terry~~

G. Pow

D. L. Dowell

PTWN 031 N CLER CLER AKHQ PTWN 04 15 ECM 1535 024

D. L. DOWELL
O. F. BECKMEYER
W. L. CATO

NEAR MISS GAS ESCAPE PEDRICKTOWN

ON APRIL 15, 1971 AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 AM, A GAS
ESCAPE WAS EXPERIENCED IN BLDG 513. VINYL CHLORIDE ESCAPED
THRU AN OPEN MANHEAD OF A PEARL POLY WHILE IT WAS BEING CHARGED.
NO INJURIES RESULTED.
A NARRATIVE REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

JOHN GRESSLER

PTWN 032 N CLER CLER AKHQ PTWN 04 15 ECM 1535 024

D. L. DOWELL
O. F. BECKMEYER
W. L. CATO

NEAR MISS GAS ESCAPE PEDRICKTOWN

ON APRIL 15, 1971 AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 AM, A GAS
ESCAPE WAS EXPERIENCED IN BLDG 513. VINYL CHLORIDE ESCAPED
THRU AN OPEN MANHEAD OF A PEARL POLY WHILE IT WAS BEING CHARGED.
NO INJURIES RESULTED.
A NARRATIVE REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

JOHN GRESSLER

NGC 15684