

STORE-SAFE®
www.store-safe.com



Don't get bitten: ignorance is no longer a valid excuse.

DANGEROUS GOODS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013

With 2013 quickly coming to an end, many organisations will close for the Christmas and New Year's break. Leaving your premises for an extended period over Christmas/New Year can be a risky time. Vandals, arsonists and burglars have the luxury of a quiet period and fewer pairs of eyes observing their activities. In addition, there is no human observation to monitor any potential situations regarding dangerous goods. It is a fact that this period also sees extremes in weather: high temperatures, fires, storms and flooding.

If your organisation or business stores any dangerous goods, here are a few common-sense tips:

Leave The Site Clean: Combustible wastes should be removed from the building and yard areas.

Isolate Non-Essential Electric Power: If necessary, alarms, security lighting, fire pumps etc. should be placed on separate circuits.

Isolate Dangerous Gases, Liquids Fuels: If it can be done, the main gas valves outside the building should be shut off. Otherwise, individual burner valves should be shut. Gas cylinders should be disconnected or shut off at the manifold. Remove portable gas cylinders and any large amounts or aerosol cans from the building and store in a cool, ventilated and secure place, preferably a compliant gas or aerosol cage. Drain dip tanks of flammable paints or solvents or cover the tanks. Remove dangerous and hazardous goods into approved and properly constructed storage facilities (stores, cabinets) and designated areas.





Safeguard Any Special Work being done during this period. Idle periods are frequently used for maintenance and modifications which cannot be carried out conveniently at other times. Closing down a plant can involve the removal of equipment and machines. Such work can introduce serious fire hazards, particularly if it involves cutting or welding. Alterations sometimes require shutting off a sprinkler system. Feel free to speak with a Store-Safe consultant to discuss any aspects of dangerous goods storage over the holiday period.

Australia Issues Chemicals Business Checklist: If you're starting or running a business that deals with chemicals or plastics, the new Chemicals Business Checklist can help you navigate your requirements and ensure your business is safe, sustainable and compliant. The checklist is useful for anyone working in the chemicals and plastics industry including those who import, manufacture, use, handle, transport or dispose chemicals. The checklist includes a series of questions to help guide you through many of the issues you need to consider when operating your chemical business and a contact list to direct you to the relevant regulatory body or government agency.

The checklist also covers a range of topics, including:

- understanding chemical products.
- manufacturing, importing and exporting chemical products.
- labelling and packaging requirements.
- work health and safety requirements.
- transporting chemical products.
- disposing of chemical waste.
- chemicals of security concern.

The full checklist booklet is now available to download at:
[ChemicalsBusinessChecklist.pdf](#)

The latest issue of the Australian Institute of Dangerous Goods Consultants (AIDGC) newsletter ([Click Here](#)) reports on a range of incidents and happenings from across Australia and Around the world.

Here's a brief rundown:

Amendments Being Considered to Work Health and Safety Laws:

The Queensland Government has been reviewing work health and safety laws in Queensland and giving businesses an opportunity to provide feedback on those which came into effect last year. Business representatives have generally supported the laws but considered some had a significant compliance burden for industry. Read all: [Click Here](#)

Recycling Company under Investigation by Environment Protection Authority:

Australia's largest tyre-recycling company has abandoned thousands of tyres at its depots around the country and is now under investigation by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA). Steve Beaman, the EPA's director of waste and resource recovery, confirmed that Carbon Polymers was in the State Government's sights. "The EPA is currently investigating Carbon Polymers Pty Ltd," he said. "We take the allegations concerning Carbon Polymers Pty Ltd very seriously and do not want to jeopardise our investigations by commenting any further at this stage." Source: ABC News, Linton Besser and Alex McDonald The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) issued Carbon Polymers Pty Ltd with a clean-up notice following an EPA investigation of community complaints regarding improper storage and disposal of waste tyres and a fire incident at a site in Woodpark Rd, Smithfield. The clean-up notice and penalties issued by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to Carbon Polymers Pty Ltd are available <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/publicregister/index.htm>

Environment Protection Authority Tests for Toxic Chemicals in Hillsdale Park Botched:

The NSW government laboratory used by the Environment Protection Authority to test the levels of toxic chemicals and metals around a Hillsdale park area, made a series of embarrassing bungles that skewed the official results. An investigation by Fairfax Media has uncovered the trail of errors by the Office of Environment and Heritage's laboratory, which included misinterpreting the levels of metal found in the soil by "100-fold". The discovery comes after NSW Chief Scientist Mary O'Kane chose Emeritus Professor Chris Fells, AM, to scrutinise the EPA's methodology and analysis in concluding that toxic metals from the park and the verges of homes were below health investigation levels. Controversy flared earlier this year when concerned residents engaged their own expert, Andrew Helps, from Hg Recoveries, a company that is part of the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Mercury Partnership, to carry out some testing for potential off-site contamination around the Orica chemical company's Botany site.

Free Standards Guide - Dangerous Goods:

SIA Global has produced a free downloadable document that provides information on Standards and other industry specific information that may be of interest to anyone working with different types of dangerous goods, including manufacturers, importers, suppliers and users. The publications outlined in this guide cover requirements for dangerous goods transported by road and rail. To download your free copy of this guide and more visit <http://www.saiglobal.com/guides>

Chinese Gas Pipeline Explosion:

Kills 47 and 136 in Hospital. China's largest oil refiner Sinopec apologized for explosions

from a ruptured oil pipeline that killed 47 people and injured 136 others in one of the country's worst industrial accidents this year. Sinopec's expansion of petrochemical projects has met with resistance from members of the public, and the November blasts in the eastern port city of Qingdao will likely add to growing concern about safety and environmental risks. The accident was the deadliest involving Sinopec. The explosions ripped slabs of pavement and online photos showed bodies, overturned vehicles and shattered windows in nearby buildings. Black smoke rose above gigantic fuel silos and darkened much of the sky over a bay area.

Chlorine Dioxide Fumes from Steel Mill : Nineteen people at Nucor-Yamato Steel, Arkansas, were exposed to chlorine dioxide, a chemical used to control bacteria in water treatment systems. "With chlorine gas, one of the big concerns is going to be respiratory, which is your breathing. So, we were watching for symptoms of swelling in the nose or throat. And then also swelling within the lungs". The Fire Department set up a decontamination tent outside the hospital's emergency room. The steel mill is still up and running, but the equipment involved in the chlorine dioxide leak has been taken out of service.

Six Dead in Gas Leak at Spanish Coalmine:

A gas leak at a coalmine in northwestern Spain killed six men and injured five in the country's deadliest mining accident in nearly two decades, officials said. "There seems to have been a leak of methane gas. The mine is very treacherous." The gas leak happened so quickly that the miners did not have time to put their protective masks on, said Jose Antonio Colinas, who represents miners at the local branch of the UGT trade union. "They really did not have time to react, the atmosphere was invaded by methane," he told reporters at the scene. It is the worst accident at a Spanish mine since 14 miners were killed on August 31, 1995, due to a methane explosion at a coalmine near Mieres in the northern province of Asturias.

California Chemical Plant Leak:

About 70 people were taken ill after a sulphuric acid leak at a chemical company in California - Los Angeles County Fire Department officials said.

People in the Carson area complained of throat and nose irritation and vomiting after being exposed to an "apparent sulphuric acid release in the air from a neighbouring business," Los Angeles County Fire Department spokesman Robert Diaz said. Thirteen people were treated at local hospitals and later released, Fire Department official Phil Ulloa said. Others were treated at the scene. Ulloa said the leak was caused by a scrubber machine malfunctioning at the Solvay chemical plant.

Pupils Collapse after Inhaling Chemical Waste:

Twenty five pupils of Ogba Junior Secondary School, Lagos, collapsed after inhaling chemical waste allegedly discharged into the drain by Bizcircuit Photo Laboratory, situated at the Ogba Shopping Plaza, Lagos. Liquid chemicals with offensive and choking odour were stored and used for production in the photo lab on the first floor of the shopping complex. State Director of Fire and Safety Services Rasaq Fadipe said his men worked with other agencies to curb the spread of the chemical fumes.

We hope that you have found this newsletter interesting and informative. ***On behalf of the staff and management at Store-Safe, we wish you a happy and safe Christmas and New Year period.*** For your information, Store-Safe will be closed over the period

from 20th December returning on Monday 13 January.

Kind regards,

Grant Breeze
Managing Director

Store-Safe Office Locations

NSW

P: 02 9569-2122
F: 02 9568-3313
Unit 4, 71-73 Lords Rd
LEICHHARDT NSW
2040

VIC

P: 03 9314-0444
F: 03 9314-0433
Unit 23, 640-680
Geelong Road
BROOKLYN VIC
3025

QLD

P: 07 3245 3733
F: 07 3245 3655
Unit 4 73-75 Steel
Street
(cnr India St)
CAPALABA QLD 4157

WA

P: 08 9330
9561
F: 08 9330
9561

STORE-SAFE®

FOR ALL YOU SAFE STORAGE UNITS.
AND SAFE HANDLING NEEDS

