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

**DANGEROUS GOODS NEWSLETTER**

NOVEMBER  
2014

Hello Terry,

Firstly, we would like to say thank you for the tremendous feedback we received from our last newsletter. The heightened threat of terrorism cannot be taken lightly in these uncertain times. The Dangerous Goods industry has taken a proactive stand to reduce the potential incidence that terrorism (on a global scale) represents to our freedom and way of life. Chemical, fertilizer, explosives and petrochemical industries have all reacted quickly, with most large national and multi-national organisations enacting tighter security and product movement scrutiny.

We all have our part to play in protecting our staff and neighbours.



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**Our regulatory bodies (such as EPA and WorkCover) have been busy with a raft of actions of late – here are just a few:**

**3 November 2014: The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has issued local business, Crawfords Freightlines, with a Prevention Notice to stop fumigating timber on its Sandgate site.** The company was using Methyl Bromide, a highly toxic chemical, and then was releasing the fumigant to the atmosphere. Gary Davey, EPA's Director North, said the notice was issued last Friday. "Crawfords Freightlines does not have an Environment Protection Licence (EPL) to fumigate timber on the scale of its current operations at the site," Mr Davey said. "The EPA first became aware of the possibility of Methyl Bromide being used on site after receiving a copy of an anonymous pamphlet raising concerns about the use of the chemical which had been letterbox dropped to local residents. "Methyl Bromide is a highly toxic chemical which can have serious health implications if it is not used appropriately," Mr Davey said. Further investigations are being undertaken by the EPA. Significant penalties apply for carrying out a scheduled activity without a licence, ranging from \$15,000 fines to a

maximum penalty if prosecuted of \$1 million.

**30 October 2014:** *The freight transport company Toll North Pty Ltd has been fined a total of \$9,680 and ordered to pay \$10,000 in costs after pleading guilty to two dangerous goods offences in the Downing Centre Local Court last week.*

In March 2012, Toll North was engaged to provide transport for a consignment of 21,000L of toluene diisocyanate. Toluene diisocyanate is a toxic chemical which can cause severe injury or death, and is listed as a dangerous good in the Australian Dangerous Goods Code (ADG Code). Toll North subcontracted the transportation to another company, which was not licenced to transport dangerous goods. The Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Director of Hazardous Incidents and Environmental Health Craig Lamberton said the truck carrying the toluene diisocyanate was pulled over in Botany during a joint dangerous goods compliance campaign with officers from Roads and Maritime Services and the EPA on 28 March 2012. Toll North pleaded guilty to an offence of not providing proper transport documentation and was fined \$2,640. The company also pleaded guilty to an offence for engaging someone who did not have adequate instruction and training for dangerous goods transport and was fined \$7,040.

For more information about the transport of dangerous goods visit the EPA website:

[www.epa.nsw.gov.au/dangerousgoods/index.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/dangerousgoods/index.htm)

**Terror Threat Prompts Orica Review:** The increased terror threat level (as reported in our last newsletter) has forced Orica Yarwun to review its security and safety procedures. The ammonium nitrate plant creates explosives used in the mining industry and has stringent security policies. On September 15 the Department of Explosives Inspectorate issued a security alert to all operations using security-sensitive explosives. An Orica spokesperson said stringent measures had been reviewed following the recent announcement by the Australian Government, in which the national terrorism threat was increased from medium to high.

**15 October 2014:** The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has commenced a prosecution in the Land and Environment Court against Caltex Australia Petroleum for a Tier 1 offence, in relation to an alleged incident involving the uncontrolled discharge of about 157,000 litres of unleaded petrol at the Caltex Banksmeadow Terminal. "Tier 1 offences under the Protection of Environment Operations Act 1997 are the most serious offences under legislation administered by the EPA and it requires approval from the EPA Board before commencement. This offence carries a maximum penalty of \$2,000,000 for a corporation," said EPA Chair and CEO Barry Buffier. It is alleged that on 12 July 2013 Caltex was attempting to transfer unleaded petrol from a storage tank when there was a break in the hose and about 157,000 litres of petrol rapidly discharged into the surrounding bunded area creating a large pool of petrol. This triggered an emergency response from NSW Fire and Rescue. It is alleged that the discharge continued for around 80 minutes before a NSW Fire and Rescue officer waded through a pool of petrol to turn off the valve.

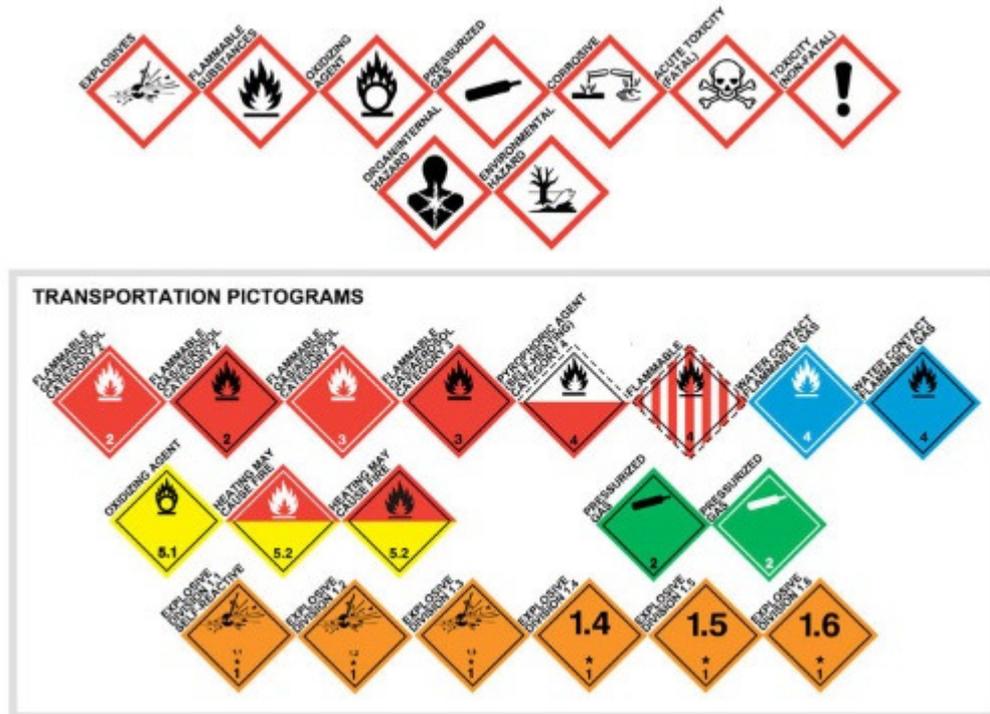
**Globally Harmonized System – KEEP UPDATED:** *The Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals is now in its fifth revised edition.*

First introduced in 2003 and revised every two years, the fifth revised edition updates and replaces previous versions including, inter alia, a new test method for oxidizing solids, miscellaneous provisions intended to further clarify the criteria for some hazard classes (skin corrosion/irritation, severe eye damage/irritation, and aerosols) and to complement the information to be included in the Safety Data Sheet; revised and simplified classification and labelling summary tables; a new codification system for hazard pictograms, and revised and further rationalized precautionary statements.

The latest version is available as a download at:

[www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs\\_rev05/05files\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/ghs/ghs_rev05/05files_e.html)

Remember, we have a number of downloadable SDS and checklist available on our web site home page. We also have the latest GHS labels available as well.



### [Safety Signs](#)

**SECURITY OVER CHRISTMAS CLOSE-DOWN:** If your organisation has a close-down period over the Christmas and New Year period, now is the time to pre-plan a check list. It's a good idea to check that any dangerous goods stored on the premises are safe and secure. It is an unfortunate fact that many businesses are broken into and sustain damage during this period. Should any containers of dangerous chemicals be damaged or spilt, serious injury can be caused to innocent parties. This is *especially important for Laboratory Managers in educational institutions* where close-down periods can be up to six weeks duration. Storage of gas bottles and aerosols should be checked as these are targets for thieves over the quiet period. Many large organisations have security managers and personnel – consult with them to discuss the best methods of secure storage and security. It is also a time where our worst storms occur. If any dangerous goods or chemicals are stored externally, make sure they are safe, are above any potential stormwater channels and not under trees.

The latest AIDGC Newsletter ([Click Here](#)) contains a number of interesting stories and articles from around Australia and internationally – here is a quick glimpse:

**More Red Tape when Delivering Fuel: All fuel, oil and gas deliveries and transport operations will be subjected to more red tape and paperwork if a Draft Order in front of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal is accepted.**

A Draft Order has recently been submitted, to the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal, to apply to the transport and distribution of any oil, fuel, gas petroleum products. This Draft Order is submitted in the

context of an industry characterised by employee drivers and an already heavily regulated by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and the Dangerous Goods Code which place incredibly strict parameters around the safety requirements and documentation in place in order to transport petroleum based products. This is in addition to operators' current obligations to adhere to various federal and state legislative instruments governing workplace health and safety, OH&S, chain of responsibility, as well as heavy vehicle and road transport regulations.

**Explosion Victims Win Large Settlement from Revlon and A.C.T. Government:** Three men who took cosmetics giant Revlon to court over injuries received in an explosion at a Canberra factory in 2009 have won AUD \$6.6 million from the company and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) government. The explosion occurred after a box of deodorant cans was placed in a shredding machine at the SteriHealth medical waste disposal facility in Mitchell, north of Canberra. The three victims, electrical contractors installing cabling at the site, suffered major external and internal burns when they inhaled the combusting material from the explosion. The men and their mothers launched a legal action in the ACT Supreme Court over the incident on the grounds of physical and psychiatric damage which caused a loss of income and economic capacity, and the need for past and future care. They have now instead accepted the settlement, which includes six-figure payouts for the mothers as carers. Lawyers alleged Revlon did not tell SteriHealth that cosmetic waste in the bins collected on the day of the incident included pressurized aerosol cans and that SteriHealth failed to take practical steps to ensure that the cans were not shredded. A company owned by the ACT government was also involved, and will therefore be paying a share of the final amount.

**Chemical Spill at Mosman NSW:** Four people were taken to hospital after a chemical spill in a garbage truck at Mosman. Garbage men were collecting rubbish as part of a council clean up when they picked up some bottles containing chemicals on Sirius Cove Road, which is close to Taronga Zoo and leads down to a beach and reserve. When the chemicals were placed in the truck they were mixed together with the other rubbish and caused a spill. Eight fire and rescue crews, including a Hazmat unit, and five ambulance vehicles rushed to the street and a 200-metre exclusion zone was set up. Ambulance treated two people for mild eye irritation. The garbage truck driver was one of two people decontaminated at the scene. The man, who is in his 60s, was taken to RNSH alongside the other three people. They were released later that afternoon. Emergency services believe containers broke inside the truck and the chemicals mixed together giving off a noxious smell.

**And ... from around the world:**

**Central China Chemical Plant Fire:** Five people were confirmed dead and one was seriously injured in a fire that broke out at a barium nitrate plant in central China's Hunan. The fire happened at Xinhua Luxiang Barium Industry Co., Ltd, in Fangjiatun township of Huaihua City. Preliminary investigations showed the fire was ignited when factory workers were repairing a machine, which seriously injured six workers.

**Welding Fire at Fertilizer Plant:** A welding accident evidently sparked a fire inside a chemical mixing machine at the Florikan fertilizer plant in Sarasota in the USA. Maintenance supervisor Mike Cruz said he and two other workers on duty escaped without harm. Smoke billowed from the building and limited visibility in the interior. Firefighters got on the roof to open mechanical hatches to let more smoke out. Sarasota County Interim Fire Chief Michael Regnier said hazardous materials units worked the scene as a precaution. A chemical fire at the same plant in April 2009 also caused an evacuation and road closures in the industry.

**Flammable Liquid & Flame Test, Reconsider: *Chemical Safety & Hazard Investigation Board* investigators spoke about what they've learned so far regarding an incident at a Denver high**

***school that sent four students to hospital:*** *The teacher lit a small pool of methanol to demonstrate its flame properties. When the flame didn't rise as high as desired, he added more methanol from a 4 litre container. The fire flashed back into the container, then emerged as a "jet fire" that travelled 15 ft to hit a student in the chest. That student was wearing a synthetic shirt and was seriously injured, others sitting nearby were also hurt.* "Instructors and teachers are just not aware of the flashback hazard of methanol," CSB managing director Daniel Horowitz said. "Methanol has a flash point that's pretty similar to gasoline. I think that if people knew that gallon containers of gasoline were being brought into classrooms right near flames, they would be horrified."

**Plant Worker in Fatal Chemical Accident:** One of four employees hurt in a chemical accident at the Axiall Corp. Natrium Plant in West Virginia has died. Thomas Zahnow was one of the two workers sent to the West Penn Burn Center after suffering chemical burns on his neck, arms, legs and torso. He had been hospitalized since the incident. Axiall expects the other three employees to make full recoveries. Four Axiall workers were performing a maintenance operation when they were exposed to a caustic soda solution.

**Woman Is Overcome By Fumes In Wine Cellar, Drowns In Giant Vat Of Wine:** A wine specialist who was overcome by fumes at an industrial cellar died after losing her balance and falling into a vat of wine. Nerea Perez was watching the fermenting process at a cellar in the Spanish village of Salas de los Barrios when she was overcome by the fumes. The 25-year-old lost her balance and then fell into the giant vat. According to Gimera Peralta Colunga, a worker at the cellar, nothing like this has happened at the cellar before. However, winemakers have noted that accidents like Perez's are more common than everyone believes because of the strong fumes.

**Gas Leak Brings Chaos to Norway Town:** An ammonia leak at a dairy in South-West Norway led to nine people hospitalised and the town centre evacuated. The incident happened at the Tine dairy in Ålesund. Nine people were exposed to the potentially deadly gas and brought to a local hospital. The leakage was discovered by dairy staff and emergency services quickly cleared several streets in the centre of Ålesund. The main road in to the city centre was also closed off. A sanitation tent was put up by the fire department to clean anybody exposed to the ammonia.

**Chlorine Gas Leak at HPC Mill:** At least 30 people, including women and children, were hospitalised after chlorine gas leaked from Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) paper mill at Jagiroad in central Assam's Morigaon district in India. One of the chlorine pipes of the paper mill blasted yesterday polluting the air and water in and round Jagiroad causing 20 women and 10 children to be admitted in the HPC hospital, an official said.

**Children and Household Chemicals:** They claim to remove tough stains and dispense with the mess of washing powder, but who would have thought children would find liquid tabs good enough to eat? Doctors in Britain have already warned that the squishy liquid pouches are a significant health issue, causing serious damage to the throats and airways of children duped by their attractive and sweet-like packaging. In Britain, the fallout from swallowing the capsules included five cases in children aged between 10 months and two years who suffered serious damage to their throats. Some needed mechanical help to breathe and one needed surgery after the corrosive chemicals caused extensive damage to the airway and throat.

**Acid in Pool at Turkish Hotel:** Seventeen people, including four tourists, grew sick after being poisoned by acid accidentally pumped into a swimming pool at a five-star hotel in the popular resort town of Beldibi in Antalya. Workers in charge of pool maintenance accidentally put acid in the pool instead of the chlorine used to keep the pool clean. The acid being pumped into the pool caused a poisonous gas to be released, the private Doğan news agency reported. It did not specify what kind of acid had been used.

We hope you have found our newsletter interesting and informative. Should you require any assistance managing dangerous goods and hazardous chemicals, we recommend you contact a qualified Dangerous Goods Consultant - a list is available from the AIDGC web site at [www.aidgc.org.au](http://www.aidgc.org.au). Should you require any assistance with storage or labelling feel free to contact the Store-Safe office in your state, visit our web site at [www.store-safe.com](http://www.store-safe.com) or follow us on Facebook.

Kind regards,

Grant Breeze  
Managing Director

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