

Tank Truck Flash Fire

Safety Alert

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Enform

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An Industry Product

This document was developed by industry for industry. Working collaboratively, Enform works with the submitting organization representative in developing these documents to improve the industry's hazard awareness. Canada's leading oil and gas industry trade associations support the use of shared information to help companies of all sizes improve performance.

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Description of Incident:

A pipeline crew was blowing down a pipeline to a tank truck to prepare the pipeline for abandonment, when a vapour cloud formed around the truck and was ignited by the truck's running engine. A worker in the area suffered first and second degree burns to his face as a result of the flash fire.



Tank on Fire

Visible Flame from Truck Tank Hatch



Burnt Engine Air Filter

What Caused It?

The tank truck engine was running, acting as an ignition source during the pipeline blow down.

Contributing Factors Included:

- Vapours and gas were vented through the tank hatch rather than the vent line
- Tank truck personnel did not follow established procedures
- Tank truck personnel did not identify vapour and gas as a potential fire hazard or the truck engine as a potential ignition source on their hazard assessment
- Other workers on site identified the imminent danger, but did not shut down the job

Corrective/Preventative Actions:

- Workers were reminded of their responsibilities to follow established procedures and assess and manage fire and explosion hazards
- Workers were educated on their legal responsibilities to shut down unsafe work
- Meetings were held between contracting companies and the owner company to communicate expectations related to safe work and pre-job preparation

By industry, for industry

