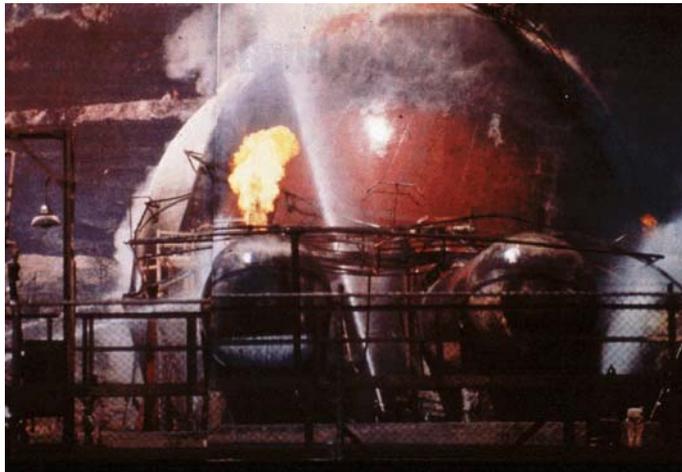


How Can You Use “The Beacon”?

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One important issue in maintaining a good process safety culture in any organization is to maintain a sense of vulnerability. In other words, we must always remember, and respect, the hazards associated with our processes and materials. If we have good and effective process safety management systems, one result is that we will have fewer incidents. This can lead to complacency - we forget why we are doing all of the activities in the process safety management system which result in good performance and few or no incidents. So, it is important to use resources like "The Beacon" to remind ourselves of what can happen if we don't do those activities – such as Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis (including assigning our most knowledgeable people to Process Hazard Analysis studies), Operating Procedures, Asset Integrity and Reliability, Management of Change, Emergency Management, Incident Investigation, Auditing, and others. In all of the incidents we discuss in the Beacon, there has been a failure in one or more of these important process safety management systems

Did you know?

- Nearly all incidents are the result of more than one failure. Some failures result in near misses - that is they did not cause an incident this time, but could have.
- Almost every month, “The Beacon” receives a number of emails pointing out other lessons that can be learned from the incident discussed, which have not been included in the Beacon.
- Because of the limited space available in “The Beacon”, we must pick one of the many lessons from each incident, and focus the Beacon on that lesson. But there are always other lessons.
- Whenever possible, if the reports on the incidents described are publicly available, we will provide a reference in the Beacon cover email note.

What can you do?

- Good – post the Beacon in places where workers will see it and read it – for example, bulletin boards, locker rooms, lunch rooms, control rooms, the gate house.
- Better – use the Beacon as the basis for safety meetings or other safety discussions with operators and other workers.
- Better yet – Develop additional information which relates the topic in the Beacon to the operations in your own plant, including any similar incidents or near misses in your company, and discuss this information with workers.
- Best – Unit or plant management leads a discussion of the Beacon with workers and challenges them to find other lessons in the incident described, beyond those discussed in the Beacon. Challenge plant safety committees to use the Beacon in their work.

Learn from the experience of others!