

Fifteen Years of the Process Safety Beacon

In November 2001, the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) published the first issue of the Process Safety Beacon (Image 1) and distributed it to a few hundred people. Since then, 180 issues for process industry workers have been published (available at www.sache.org). Distribution has expanded to over 38,000 people, and many of those recipients share the Beacon with coworkers. The total readership is likely several hundred thousand each month. The Beacon is currently translated into more than 25 languages by a dedicated group of volunteer translators who contribute their time to promote process safety worldwide.

In 2016, two Beacons focused on repeat incidents: February covered fires resulting from overflowing tanks containing flammable materials (Image 2), and May focused on ammonium nitrate explosions (Image 3). These incidents are examples of events that the Beacon is intended to help prevent by providing information about a past incident to prevent it from occurring again.



Did you know?

- The Beacon is written for process industry workers, including operators and maintenance workers. It focuses on things that they can observe and actions that they can take within their job responsibilities.
- Many engineers, chemists, and managers read the Beacon. However, this is not the Beacon's intended audience. You will not find suggestions to change the process, replace equipment, or follow a specific standard.
- You are free to share the Beacon with your coworkers and colleagues, either as a hard copy or computer file.



What can you do?

- When you read a Beacon, think about what you can learn from it, even if it discusses an incident that happened in a very different kind of plant. For example, the September 2016 Beacon was about a fire on a ship. Most Beacon readers do not work on ships, but the underlying message was about the importance of management of change (MOC), which applies to every kind of plant or equipment.
- The Beacon is limited to one page, which means it cannot include all of the important lessons from an incident. When you

read a Beacon, think about other takeaways, and research more information on the incident or similar incidents.

- If you work in a plant with a good process safety management program, you probably don't have many incidents, and it is easy to become complacent. Use the Beacon as a reminder of what can happen if you fail to rigorously carry out all of the activities in your plant's process safety management system.
- Read the February 2008 Beacon, "How to Use the Beacon," for more information on how to best utilize this free tool.

Sharing process safety lessons for 15 Years!

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