



Case Study 14

Sharing lessons learned from Health & Safety Incident across the Industry

Investigations into a serious health and safety incident at a UK animal by products (ABP) processing installation led to the introduction of safer working practices across the industry.

The incident occurred when a worker entered a partly tipped ABP raw material trailer and was overcome by hydrogen sulphide gas, causing him to fall inside the trailer. Two other workers entered the trailer to attempt to rescue their colleague, suffering the same effects. Responders were quickly alerted via the live CCTV footage of the area in the control room and the workers were safely rescued.

Hydrogen sulphide and ammonia gases are produced by decomposing ABPs and if present in a confined space such as a trailer they can pose a significant health risk to exposed workers. Dangerous levels of these gases can build up inside ABP raw material reception buildings and most installations now have gas detector systems to warn of high gas concentrations in the workplace. Key workers in such areas also wear personal gas detectors to quickly warn them if they approach an area where gas levels are high.

A key point noted was that confined spaces do not have to be physically confined and can be any

areas where there are dangerous levels of harmful gases or oxygen deficient areas.

The incident investigation identified root causes and it became clear that the same hazards are present across the industry. The company shared their lessons learned with their industry colleagues at the EFPRA Standing Technical Committee and the FABRA UK Technical Forum. This led to the introduction of similar health and safety systems across the industry.

A bespoke confined spaces training facility was built at the UK installation where the incident occurred and workers from other FABRA UK member companies have been trained at the facility. This gave workers knowledge of the dangers of confined spaces and practical experience of using specialist breathing apparatus for essential work in such areas.

Confined Space Emergency Instructions

<p>TOP MAN “DO NOT ENTER” Top man will remain in place for duration of the task</p>	
<p>SELF RESCUE BY ENTRANT IF POSSIBLE Entrant to vacate the space if problem occurs, put on escape breathing apparatus (BA) if required</p>	
<p>LOSS OF COMMUNICATION Raise the alarm, request the casualty extraction team</p>	
<p>GAS ALARM The entrant will vacate the area and move to a place of safety using the escape BA</p>	
<p>KNOWN MINOR INJURY / ILLNESS If mobile, the casualty will make their way out of the space. If not mobile, contact the casualty extraction team</p>	
<p>NON-GAS INCIDENT Call for the casualty extraction team to attend and extract the casualty, call for the emergency services</p>	
<p>GAS RELATED INCIDENT Raise the alarm, request the casualty extraction team (Trolley BA required), call for the emergency services</p>	