

**Confined Space Accidents and Fatalities From [www.safetynews.co.uk](http://www.safetynews.co.uk)  
Courtesy of Burgess and Associates-Hot Zone USA  
[www.hzburgess.com](http://www.hzburgess.com)**

**[www.safetynews.co.uk](http://www.safetynews.co.uk) began compiling accident and fatality incidents in April of 2007. The following are accidents and fatalities involving confined spaces taken from their website. The majority involve work inside, on, or around confined spaces. There are some that may not actually involve confined spaces and are better characterized as machine guarding incidents. Occasionally, there are also some included simply because they were so bizarre. Trenching fatalities are not included. Accidents and fatalities involving mines, quarries, pits, and tunnels are included separately at the end of the document, as they are rarely regulated as confined spaces.**

**August 2013**

Spain

**Rise in Canary Islands workplace deaths**

A roofer has died in a fall from a building on San Pedro Street in El Mocanal on the island of El Hierro, the most southerly of the Canaries. This was the 4th workplace death in the Canary Islands in the last week, following a trench collapse on a site in Tenerife and a double fatality at a septic tank on La Palma. Workplace fatalities in the Canaries were standing at 13 in mid-summer, at the same time last year there had been 8 deaths. 2nd August 2013

Germany

**Bin man's foot run over; Silo worker's leg severed in auger**

A refuse collector's foot was run over by a bin wagon in Staufen, Baden-Wurtemberg, yesterday, the vehicle rolled backwards on a slight gradient and the victim was one of the co-drivers.

In Wolfersheim in Hessen a worker's leg was severed in an auger when he slipped and fell while cleaning in a grain silo in the Sodel area of the town. 2nd August 2013

Belgium

**Arm broken as sleeve snags in potato grader**

A maintenance worker's arm was broken as he was working on potato-grading machinery when his clothing snagged at a potato processing unit in Leuze-en-Hainaut. He sustained a compound fracture of his arm after it was drawn in but the arm was not crushed. The Leuze fire master who attended the accident commented that the machinery's safety mechanism actually prevented a worse accident. 5th August 2013

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Canada

**Newfoundland welding accident**

A Newfoundland and Labrador welder has died in an explosion during hot metal work at premises in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. The victim, an employee of Stafford's Welding Ltd, was inside the tank of a fuel lorry operating welding equipment, a colleague and an employee of Woodward's Oil who were on top of the vehicle were also injured. 5th August 2013

Belgium

**Confined space fatality**

A construction worker died and a colleague was seriously injured in an apparent confined space accident as they were removing formwork at the site of a new police station on Kioskplaats in Hoboken, near Antwerp. 8th August 2013

Austria

**Worker killed in stone crusher**

A 21-year old Steyr worker has died in a crush accident while trying to deal with a breakdown in stone-crushing machinery at the site of a new chairlift facility at Schladming. He had switched off the machinery and then lifted the cover to step down on to its conveyor belt system. However it lurched forward and he became pinned between the roller and crusher plates. 8th August 2013

Rep Ireland

**Man overcome by farm slurry fumes**

A 59-year old man has died in an apparent confined space accident after inhaling slurry fumes at a farm in Kells, County Meath. 12th August 2013

Turkey

**Ship workers die in CO atmosphere**

A confined space accident claimed the lives of 2 workers on the vessel known as "The Love Boat", the former Pacific Princess and Quail Cruises liner, which has been bought by the Izmir Ship Recycling Company. As the ship was entering the port of Aliaga water ingress occurred and pumps which were introduced produced an oxygen-deficient atmosphere in the storage area under the main engine. 13th August 2013

France

**Farmer injured cleaning harvester**

A Landes farmer is recovering in hospital in Mont de Marsan after he was injured while

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cleaning harvesting equipment which suddenly activated at Sud Ouest Legumes in Borderes- et-Lamesans. 13th August 2013

England

**Son's prompt action saves Lancs farmer's arm**

A 52-year old Lancashire farmer is recovering in Royal Preston Hospital from a badly fractured arm which was injured in a hay baler on his land near Eccleston. He was investigating a technical malfunction in the baler which had begun to overheat and his arm was drawn in almost to the shoulder. Prompt action by his 8-year old son who was also in the field and de-activated the equipment almost certainly prevented the loss of his arm which was broken in 5 places and took 2 hours for fire crews to release. 13th August 2013

China

**Tunnel collapse kills 4 workers at hydro site**

Four construction workers have died in a structural collapse at a tunnel under construction at the hydropower station site being built by Jiangxi Water and Hydropower Construction in Jiangxi province. 14th August 2013

Scotland

**Farm worker killed in machinery accident**

The HSE has been informed of a fatal accident at Auchlinn farm at Fisherie in Aberdeenshire where a man has died in an accident involving a Class Lexion 460 combine harvester. 15th August 2013

China

**5 dead in confined space accident at Shanghai food plant**

Five workers have died and 4 others were injured in a confined space accident during cleaning work in an area with a sewage pool at a food factory in Chongming, Shanghai. 21st August 2013

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-08/21/content\\_16909072.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-08/21/content_16909072.htm)

USA

**Welder killed in diesel tank explosion**

A worker was killed when a diesel tank exploded at Brownie's Oil Company on Reynolds Industrial Park in Greenville, Pennsylvania. The worker was engaged in hot metal work in an area close to where the 7,500-gallon tank was located but it was unclear whether welding sparks played any part in the explosion. 21st August 2013

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France

**Workers injured in cabling accident**

Two workers aged 40 and 34 were injured yesterday after becoming trapped inside equipment for winding cable at Arcelor Mittal at Saint-Colombe-sur-Seine. Both men were hospitalised in Dijon, 1 with a leg fracture and the other with chest injuries. 27th August 2013

USA

**Virginia worker crushed in recycling compactor**

A crush accident has claimed the life of a 53-year old worker at Recycling and Disposal Solutions on Enon Road, Roanoke, where he fell into a baler for the compaction of cans and plastics. 29th August 2013

USA

**Contractor killed in accident at Louisiana paper mill**

A contract worker of Deep South has died in an accident while cleaning the inside of a tank at the Rock Tenn paper mill in Hodge, Louisiana. A colleague managed to come out of the tank with burns injuries and has been hospitalised, as has another worker of Pulp Mill Contractors. 29th August 2013

**Also See**

**Omaha Sewer Fatality**

[http://www.omaha.com/article/20130813/NEWS/130819627/1707?goback=%2Egmp\\_2246751%2Egde\\_2246751\\_member\\_266935827#%21](http://www.omaha.com/article/20130813/NEWS/130819627/1707?goback=%2Egmp_2246751%2Egde_2246751_member_266935827#%21)

**CEO on Undercover Boss is lowered into a confined space.**

Runs from 6:11 to 8:20

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM9Ptt3mewU>

**1 killed, 2 injured in accident at Jackson Parish paper mill**

<http://www.ksla.com/story/23268459/1-killed-2-injured-in-accident-at-jackson-parish-paper-mill>

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**Accidents and Fatalities Involving Mines, Quarries, Pits, and Tunnels**

Austria

**Worker killed in stone crusher**

A 21-year old Steyr worker has died in a crush accident while trying to deal with a breakdown in stone-crushing machinery at the site of a new chairlift facility at Schladming. He had switched off the machinery and then lifted the cover to step down on to its conveyor belt system. However it lurched forward and he became pinned between the roller and crusher plates. 8th August 2013

South Africa

**Fall of ground fatality at platinum mine**

A Section 54 stop work order was issued at the Bokoni platinum mine of Atlatsa Resources in Limpopo after a miner died in a fall of ground accident. 8th August 2013

USA

**Wall collapse kills Kentucky miner**

A 56-year old Kentucky miner has died and 2 others were injured following the collapse of a wall underground at Huff Creek Mine No. 1 operated by Lone Mountain Processing in East Kentucky. 8th August 2013

Slovakia

**Fatal blasting explosion at road tunnel site**

A 39-year old worker died and 5 others were injured in an explosion which led to an earth slippage during blasting work yesterday in the Sibenik tunnel near Spissky Hrhov, part of the the new D1 highway between Janovce and Jablonov. 13th August 2013

China

**Tunnel collapse kills 4 workers at hydro site**

Four construction workers have died in a structural collapse at a tunnel under construction at the hydropower station site being built by Jiangxi Water and Hydropower Construction in Jiangxi province. 14th August 2013

USA

**Fatal accident at Wyoming coal mine**

A transport accident has claimed the life of a Wyoming miner at the Black Thunder mine of Arch Coal. The 24-year old victim was in the cab of his lorry when a power shovel moving up a ramp rolled backwards into his vehicle, a colleague was hospitalised but his injuries are not life-threatening. 19th August 2013

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Israel

**Worker killed in machinery accident at tunnel**

A 53-year old construction worker was killed yesterday after being struck in the lower body by heavy equipment while working at a tunnel mining site at Sha'ar HaGai, 15 miles from Jerusalem on the Tel Aviv highway. 20th August 2013

Australia

**Worker breaks ankle in fall down chute at NSW mine**

A 25-year old worker broke his ankle in a fall down a chute at the Drayton Coal Mine in Muswellbrook, he was trapped for a couple of hours prior to hospitalisation. 20th August 2013

Australia

**Worker's foot broken at mining site**

A worker was hospitalised with a fractured foot after a section of crane rail slipped from a structural beam along which it was travelling on a compressor deck at the Queensland Curtis LNG Bechtel site on Curtis Island. 27th August 2013

Poland

**Silesian mine accident leaves 3 maintenance workers dead**

Three maintenance workers of Kopex-PBS were killed when a power cable collapsed in a shaft 320 metres underground at the Myslowice-Wesola coal mine of Katowicki Holding Weglowy in Silesia. A colleague who survived the accident is listed in stable condition in hospital in Sosnowiec. 30th August 2013