

**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)**

**July 2013**

USA

**Confined space accident in asphalt tanker**

A 60-year old man is listed in critical condition in hospital and his 24-year old son died in a confined space accident in an empty asphalt tanker on Towaway Avenue, Tampa. A third worker managed to raise the alarm, it is speculated that one or both of them had entered the tanker to check on a possible obstruction involving a bucket which may have been causing slow drainage from the tanker when they collapsed in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. 1st July 2013

Colombia

**Triple fatality in Cartagena manhole accident**

Three employees of Consorcio La Heroica, aged 37, 49 and 57, died in a confined space accident while undertaking maintenance work at a manhole in the El Pozon district of Cartagena at the weekend. Two workers survived the accident during work to pump out waste water, the 49-year old died attempting to rescue the 2 others who drowned after being overcome by fumes. 1st July 2013

USA

**Wood chipper guard inflicts fatal injury to Maine worker**

The proprietor of Sam Chapman's Tree Services died from severe chest injury when the 1-metre long guard of the wheel of a wood chipper caught him in the chest in Bethel, Maine. It is believed that he was cleaning the inside of the chipper when the guard caught on the wheel which was still spinning inside. 3rd July 2013

New Zealand

**Fisherman's arm caught in shellfish machinery**

A 67-year old mussel fisherman is listed in stable condition in Hutt Hospital, Wellington, after his arm became caught in mussel harvesting machinery on his boat in Oyster Bay off Port Underwood. 3rd July 2013

England

**Fingers were severed in accident at Dorset brewery**

At Bournemouth Magistrates' Court yesterday Hall and Woodhouse was fined £6K plus £10K in costs over an accident at its brewery in Blandford St Mary on 27th August last year when a worker lost 2 fingers while attempting to clear a blockage in a grain dust extractor. When he reached into the chute his fingers contacted a rotary valve, HSE investigation found that the company had failed to identify risks following the relocation

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of the extractor and that it was foreseeable that employees might try to clear blockages in such a way if they occurred. The company pleaded guilty to a breach of Section 2(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. 9th July 2013

Germany

**Worker killed in 75m fall down ventilation shaft**

A maintenance worker was killed in a 16-storey fall down a ventilation shaft on Tuesday at the former Telekom building on Florian Street, Dortmund, fire crews had to break down a wall to enter the shaft and recover his body. 10th July 2013

USA

**Two Kansas men overcome in hydrogen sulphide accident**

Two workers died in a confined space accident in an underground chamber at a rural saltwater disposal lease site northeast of Clalfin, Kansas. Work was being undertaken on a leaky valve and it appears that both men were overcome by hydrogen sulphide gas. 10th July 2013

South Korea

**Worker dead, 6 missing in flooded tunnel at reservoir**

One worker was killed yesterday and 6 are missing in a flooded tunnel at a reservoir near the Han River which runs through Seoul. The workers were removing old water pipes at the bottom of the 48-metre high reservoir when water ingress occurred from the rain-swollen Han, leaving them trapped in the tunnel. 16th July 2013

Germany

**Arm severed in waste unit conveyor**

A worker's arm was severed yesterday in a conveyor system at a waste facility in Borgholzhausen, Gutersloh, he was airlifted to hospital in Munster with a view to surgical re-attachment. 18th July 2013

USA

**Flash fire at Arkansas plant**

It is speculated that a flash fire in a mixer may have caused the blaze which led to the death of 1 worker and left 2 others injured at Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies Inc in Springdale, Arkansas. 19th July 2013

USA

**Kansas City worker killed in sewer line explosion**

An explosion in a manhole has killed a water department worker in Kansas City where

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he was repairing a valve in a sewer pipe in a 5-metre deep manhole. Colleagues saw the manhole filling quickly with sewage and managed to use a rope to pull him out but he was unable to survive severe face and neck trauma injuries in the explosion. 24th July 2013

Fiji

**Sugar mill worker scalded by tank collapse**

A sugar mill worker sustained burns to 60% of his body when the collapse of the underside of an evaporator tank led to an issue of boiling water at the Lautoka sugar mill of Fiji Sugar Corporation on the Viti Levu island. 26th July 2013

Japan

**Worker killed in Tokyo escalator accident**

A 23-year maintenance worker was killed in an accident on Wednesday while working on an escalator mechanism on a construction site in the Chiyoda district of Tokyo. 25th July 2013

USA

**Worker killed at Wisconsin plant**

A fatal accident investigation was launched yesterday at Torrance Casting in La Crosse, Wisconsin, where a worker died in an accident during the night shift after apparently falling into equipment he was working on. 30th July 2013

England

**Lift engineers injured at Bloomsbury flats**

Two lift engineers sustained injuries to the head, back and pelvis yesterday in a fall of 4 floors in a lift shaft at flats at Russell Court on Coram Street in the Bloomsbury area of London. 31st July 2013