

**Confined Space Accidents and Fatalities From www.safetynews.co.uk
Courtesy of Burgess and Associates-Hot Zone USA
www.hzburgess.com**

March 2013

China

7 injured in Hong Kong lift accident

Seven people were injured, 3 with critical injuries, when lift cables failed in a commercial building on King's Road in North Point, Hong Kong. An inspector of the Electrical & Mechanical Services Department speculated that all 4 cables of the lift failed, as did the emergency brake. The lift had apparently undergone a routine inspection last month.
4th March 2013

USA

Crush accident at Florida refuse depot

A maintenance worker at a Florida refuse depot on 20th Avenue North, St Petersburg, was left with life-threatening injuries in a crush accident at the depot on Monday morning. He was cleaning the rear of a wagon when the driver closed the hydraulic door, unaware of the other worker's presence. 5th March 2013

USA

HGV driver's legs caught in auger

An employee of Frontline Concrete Pumping was hospitalised in Murray, Utah, yesterday after injuring his legs when he slipped and fell into the auger of his cement lorry which he was cleaning out at Geneva Rock in Layton. 7th March 2013

Italy

Ship's officer injured in fall into hold at Venetian port

A 22-year old Thai seaman, the 3rd officer of the Panamanian cargo ship Blse Venus, is hospitalised in Mestre after falling 5 metres into the ship's hold during the loading of cargo at port in Marghera. 10th March 2013

USA

Gas torch ignited tank vapour and led to fatal explosion

A 23-year old worker was killed in an explosion yesterday as he attempted to free frozen valves on the tank of a lorry at Rieke Grading in Kansas, it has been speculated that vapour in the tank was ignited by flames from the acetylene torch being used to de-freeze the valves. 12th March 2013

Mexico

Cleaning worker's body mangled in press

Fire crews in Saltillo, Coahuila, had the gruesome task of recovering the mangled body of a worker who became caught in a press during cleaning work at the TUPY facility on Isidro Zertuche Boulevard in Saltillo. It was unclear why the press activated during cleaning work. 13th March 2013

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Canada

Fatal accident at Toronto sewer site

An employee of Rabcon Contractors who are installing sewer services at a site on Clayson Road, Toronto, was killed in a fall into an excavation and a subsequent crush accident on Tuesday. The cause of his fall into the 8-metre deep excavation was unclear, but a concrete catch basin being used in the installation of a sewer to an adjacent commercial premises fell down on him in the trench. 13th March 2013

USA

Missouri worker's legs severed in industrial shredder

A Missouri worker was listed in critical condition in hospital in Kansas City last night after both his legs were severed in an accident earlier in the day at ABC Tyre Recycling on Gardner Avenue in the northeast of the city. It appeared that he was performing maintenance work on an industrial shredder when he fell into it. 19th March 2013

England

Northeast company fined over lift shaft fall death

At Newcastle Crown Court Durham Estates were fined £85K plus £12K in costs over an accident which proved fatal during renovation work at the former Masonic Temple in Sunderland where a 52-year old handyman fell down a lift shaft. The accident occurred on 7th October 2010 and the worker's injuries led to a severe stroke from which he died 2 days later.

HSE investigators found the victim's job specification to have been unsound and inadequate in many aspects, with the judge ruling that he had received inadequate training and was inappropriately left to his own devices without being fully competent for the work. 22nd March 2013

USA

Worker killed in explosion cleaning oil tanker

An explosion in an oil tanker has claimed the life of a 19-year old worker who was cleaning inside it at the Plains Trucking depot outside of Ross, North Dakota. Another worker sustained burns in the accident which may have been the result of a chemical reaction from a cleaning agent. 29th March 2013