

**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.**

**September 2013**

Austria

**2 Steyr farmers die in silo confined space accident**

A farmer aged 63 and his 54-year old wife died in a confined space accident yesterday in a silo on their farm in Pfarrsdorf, their 32-year old daughter who had attempted to rescue them was found unconscious but was resuscitated and was listed in stable condition in hospital in Graz last night. 2nd September 2013

USA

**Alabama painter dies in fall at water tower**

A 24-year old painter died in a fall inside a water tower during maintenance work in Irondale, Alabama. It is believed that he had been ascending the ladder to reach the top of the tower when he slipped, he was found at the bottom of the tower which had been drained empty for the maintenance work. 4th September 2013

Australia

**Brisbane man killed in fall into septic tank**

Workplace Health & Safety Queensland was advised of a fatal accident yesterday on private property in Anstead, southwest Brisbane, where a 60-year old man died in a 2-metre fall into a concrete sewerage tank. 5th September 2013

USA

**Worker killed in Oklahoma oilfield tank explosion**

A tank at an oilfield south of Bristow, Oklahoma, exploded on Wednesday, killing 1 worker and leaving another injured. Two lorries also ignited in the accident, the cause of which was unclear. 5th September 2013

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India

**Tamil Nadu worker dies in confined space accident**

A 24-year old sanitary worker has died in a confined space accident after being overcome by fumes while working in a sewer chamber at a metro sewage pumping station in Kotturpuram, Chennai(Madras). Concern has been expressed in the state over the fact that one worker dies monthly in such manhole accidents in Tamil Nadu.  
9th September 2013

Australia

**Crush death at Perth cement plant**

A 44-year old worker has died in a crush accident at the BGC cement plant in Naval Base where a sand pile collapsed on him in a silo as he worked in a scissors lift. 12th September 2013

Austria

**Molten metal burns worker in furnace explosion**

A worker was admitted to the burns unit of a St Polten hospital at the weekend after being struck on the head and upper body by boiling molten metal issuing after a furnace exploded at premises in Herzogenburg. 16th September 2013

Russia

**Welding accident on nuclear sub**

Fifteen military personnel were hospitalised following a fire on the nuclear submarine Tomsk currently undergoing repairs at the Zvezda shipyard in Primorsky Krai. It is speculated that the accident occurred during hot metal work installing a new ballast tank, an investigation was launched to assess if health and safety violations occurred. 18th September 2013

New Zealand

**Worker trapped in packaging machinery**

A middle-aged worker is listed in critical but stable condition in Middlemere Hospital after apparently becoming trapped in packaging machinery at the Lion Nathan premises in East Tamaki, Auckland. 20th September 2013

USA

**Chicago worker drowns in flooded sewer**

A 25-year old Chicago maintenance worker of Kenny Construction drowned in a sewer flooded with rain water on North Rockwell Street in the city when a surge of water swept him away after he had apparently removed his harness to gain access to a restricted

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space. Another colleague working with him who had remained in his harness was pulled to safety. The victim's body was recovered a couple of hours later some 50 metres away. 20th September 2013

USA

**Worker became stuck in tar in tank**

A worker using a steel cutter became stuck in tar while working in a tar tank at Atlantic Coast Asphalt in Jacksonville, Florida. It appeared that the less he moved the more his feet became stuck in the tar. Rescuers supplied him with breathing apparatus to contend with heat and fumes while they secured his release. 23rd September 2013

India

**Worker badly burned by kiln waste**

An issue of hot waste material struck 2 workers on Monday at the Action Ispat & Power Ltd metal plant at Marakutta, Jharsuguda. A blockage appeared to have occurred in the wet scrubber tower and it was thought that the workers were attempting to deal with this when the waste issued, one of the workers sustained 90% burns, the other has lesser injuries. 24th September 2013

Italy

**Cleaner killed in machine accident**

A 38-year old Romanian woman, an employee of a cleaning company, died yesterday in a crush accident involving machinery at a company which manufactures quartz agglomerates in Montesarchio, Campania. 27th September 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)

**Jacksonville 8 Hour Rescue of Man Stuck in Tank of Tar**

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/Man-trapped-in-tar/-/475880/22048280/-/125nk0i/-/index.html>

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<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/rss/article/328697/3/JFRD-Man-stuck-in-tar-tank-not-in-distress>

<http://www.actionnewsjax.com/content/actionbreaking/story/Man-rescued-from-tar-tank-at-local-plant/fxTSDW5tI0-l5YVgn4CyfQ.csp>

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

Turkey

**3 trapped in mine collapse**

A major rescue operation was ongoing at a private coal mine at Arakoy in Sirnak province for 3 workers trapped in a structural collapse at the mine, 1 worker managed to make his way to safety. 5th September 2013

Rep Ireland

**Forklift fatality at Dublin recyclers; fatal accident at Corrib gas tunnel**

The HSA is investigating a fatal accident at the Greenstar waste recycling facility on the Ballymount Industrial Estate, Dublin, where a 41-year old worker died in an accident involving a forklift truck.

In a separate accident a contract worker of Heerenknecht, the manufacturer of tunnel-boring machinery, has died in an accident a mile underground at the Corrib gas tunnel site of Shell E & P Ireland Ltd under Sruwaddacon Bay, Mayo. 9th September 2013

Vietnam

**Rock fell during lifting by crane and killed miner**

A 31-year old mining worker was crushed to death by large boulder which became unstable as it was being moved by crane at a Hung Dai Duong Mineral Exploitation Company mining site. 12th September 2013

Afghanistan

**27 killed in mine accident**

At least 27 miners were killed in a structural collapse at the weekend at the Abkhorak mine in the Ro-e-Dohab district of the northern Samangan province. A gas leak and explosion may have precipitated the collapse given that 14 of the rescuers encountered toxic fumes and were driven back, all managed to get out with reports of 4 rescuers

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badly injured. There were allegations of a lack of appropriate rescue equipment including breathing apparatus. 16th September 2013

France

**Fall accident at Breton quarry**

A worker was admitted to the Pontchaillou Hospital in Rennes with severe injuries after falling several metres at the Socal quarry in Lanhelin. 18th September 2013

China

**Supervisor killed in rail tunnel site accident**

The 37-year old Nepalese supervisor of a work crew has died in an accident in a tunnel construction site of the Chinese High Speed railway after being struck by an excavator. 20th September 2013

USA

**Falling machinery traps NY quarry worker**

Hydraulic lifting equipment was deployed on Monday to rescue a worker trapped in a vehicle at the Stiles Sand and Gravel quarry near Richville, New York State. It is believed that machinery fell and trapped the proprietor in the cab of a front-end loading vehicle. He was transferred to hospital in Syracuse and was listed in serious condition. 24th September 2013