

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

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. There are also a few included simply because they were so bizarre. Trenching and most mine fatalities are not included.

April 2007

Spain

Boy dies in lift shaft fall at 2nd hand furniture store

A 12-year old boy fell 8 metres to his death in a lift shaft at furniture premises on the N-630 highway in Onzonilla, in Leon, he sustained fatal head injuries in the fall from 2nd floor level, it is believed that his mother is an employee at the store. 3rd April 2007

USA

Ohio recycling worker critically ill after shredder accident

A 56-year old temporary worker lay in critical condition in hospital in Dayton, Ohio, yesterday after either falling or being drawn into shredding equipment at Rumpke Tyre Recycling Centre in St Clair. The victim lost an arm and sustained other multiple injuries in the accident; it is believed he was attempting to clear a blockage in the equipment. 28th April 2007.

May 2007

Lebanon

Exploding gas tank kills maintenance worker

An exploding gas tank yesterday at United Gas Company in Amsheet on the Lebanese coast led to the death of a maintenance worker and injuries to 2 other workers, all were working on the tank at the time of the accident, it is unclear if hot work was involved. 16th May 2007.

India

Girls drown in factory tank

The bodies of two girls aged 13 and 16 have been recovered drowned from a factory tank in Kamatchipuram in Tamil Nadu, India, the girls had gone to work at the factory and it is speculated that they may have fallen in accidentally while washing there. 20th May 2007

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USA

Ohio airline worker crushed in luggage elevator

A 21-year female employee of Pinnacle Airlines, operating as Northwest Airlink, has sustained fatal crush injuries in an accident in a baggage lift at Dayton International Airport, Ohio. The small elevator, owned by the airport, is located under the passenger jetway and transfers luggage to a loading ramp. Investigation into the accident is ongoing, the victim sustained blunt force injuries to the chest. 19th May 2007.

England

Cleaner killed at meat processing company

It is reported that a female cleaning employee at DeliCo of Milton Keynes died at the scene of an industrial accident on Saturday. According to one account she sustained multiple injuries while cleaning a machine during the night shift.

22nd May 2007

USA

Maine arborist in machinery fatality

A 42-year old arborist of Lucas Tree Experts has been killed by a wood chipper while undertaking subcontract work for Central Maine Power Company in Dallas Plantation, the victim was struck in the chest by a wood chipper's blade. It is speculated that the victim may have tried to remove a metal safety guard while the chipper was active, the exposed blade contacted the cover and sheared off. 26th May 2007.

June 2007

USA

Machinery fatality in Chicago plastics plant

A fatal accident occurred yesterday morning at the R Popernik & Co plastics plant on West 59th Street in southwest Chicago, it is believed that a worker became trapped in machinery. 5th June 2007.

Japan

Boiler explosion kills spa workers

Three female employees of the Shiespa spa in Tokyo's affluent Shibuya-ku district were killed yesterday when a boiler exploded in the hot-spring section of the annexe at the premises, the victims were in a staff locker room on the first floor above the annexe, 2 other women and a passer-by were injured in the accident. 20th June 2007

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USA

Worker killed in elevator shaft fall

A fatal accident during the installation of an elevator in Enderlin City Hall, 45 miles southwest of Fargo, North Dakota, claimed the life of a worker of CS DuBois Construction Inc of Fargo, initial investigation suggests that a guard rail he stood on failed to support his weight as he stepped from a ladder to access scaffolding, causing him to fall 7 metres into the shaft. 22nd June 2007

USA

Refuse compacter kills worker

The Washington Department of Labour and Industries is investigating a fatal accident on Monday which claimed the life of an employee of Dick's Hamburgers in Spokane where the victim was killed in an accident involving a waste compacter at the rear of the East 3rd Avenue premises. 27th June 2007.

July 2007

Canada

Confined space fatal accident in Ontario

A confined space incident claimed the lives of 2 workers inside a Bell Canada manhole in Oakville, 20 miles southwest of Toronto, while the victims were inspecting ducts, the Ontario provincial government placed a stop-work order at the site. 3rd July 2007.

USA

Confined space fatal accident claims 5 lives on Virginia farm

Four members of a Mennonite family and their hired labourer have died in a confined space fatality after being overcome by methane gas on their farm in Briery Branch, 10 miles west of Harrisonburg, Virginia. The farmer was supervising the transfer of manure from one pit to another via piping when a blockage occurred, he succumbed from the fumes during investigation of the blockage, the subsequent fatalities occurred during rescue bids. 4th July 2007.

Spain

Coal silo collapse kills 4 at Almeria cement works

The collapse of an industrial coal bunker late on Thursday afternoon at the cement works of Grupo Holcim near Corral de Carboneras beach in Almeria left 4 workers dead and 4 others injured, 3 are listed in very serious condition in Hospital Torrecardenas. 6th July 2007.

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England

Manager was overcome in confined space

A tragic accident claimed the life of a Basingstoke farm manager in December 2005, an event which should serve as a warning to others of just how easily lives can be lost in confined spaces where dangerous gases can build up.

The manager entered a slurry valve chamber at Cockington Farm and was later discovered by a colleague and rescued by emergency services, but he succumbed later to the effects of the toxic atmosphere.

An inquest held at Barnstaple County Court determined a verdict of accidental death, an HSE inspector commented: "Mr Davies was a respected and experienced farm manager and this incident highlights the need for everyone in the industry to think carefully about whether there are potentially dangerous confined spaces on their farms. Some may not be obvious at first and people may be working in them without realising the dangers. For example, many people working on farms will know that slurry stores are dangerous but they might not be as aware of the risks from inspection pits, valve chambers or other normally 'dry' parts of their slurry systems. Here, the presence of harmful gases might not be anticipated - but even very low levels of slurry gases can be toxic. Furthermore, it's not just slurry systems which pose risks but dirty water-treatment tanks, inspection chambers, forage tower silos, rapid composting systems, moist grain silos and the like, which can be equally hazardous. We have advice on how to work safely within confined spaces on farms and I urge everyone who might be affected to look at the HSE website or ask us for further information."

13th July 2007.

Belgium

Confined space fatality in Antwerp port

A confined space incident has claimed the life of a 28-year old Turkish seaman following the unloading of a cargo of cyclohexane for BASF at the port of Antwerp.

It appears that, after the unloading, 2 crew members were checking the condition of the hold when they were overcome by vapours, a 3rd crewman managed to raise the alarm. Both victims were rescued unconscious but revived by oxygen therapy. The 28-year old died later in Jan Palfijn hospital, his 41-year old colleague remains in critical condition in Stuivenburg hospital, Antwerp. 24th July 2007.

England

Confined space deaths of father and son

Two men have died, a father aged 64 and his son, it is speculated from intoxication resulting from the use of an internal combustion engine-powered pump in the confined space of Tewkesbury Rugby Football Club's cellar. The incident occurred on Wednesday evening, club members discovered the pair the next morning. 27th July 2007.

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USA

Maintenance worker dies

An Ohio maintenance worker, an employee of Pete Miller Inc, has died while working on an air-conditioning unit at the Nucor Steel plant in Marion, the victim was suspended in a harness c 14 metres above ground but apparently became snagged and drawn into the machinery, the incident was unwitnessed as the plant is closed for a maintenance programme. 27th July 2007

New Zealand

Silo coy fined over unsafe work practices

The 5-metre fall of an employee of Sharpes Stock and Wellington Egg Company from a silo top near Pauatahanui which left the victim with a fractured spine has led to a \$30K (£11,744) fine for the company at Porirua District Court and a recommendation from the Department of Labour's regional manager for workplace safety that silos should be serviced and maintained from ground level, making it unnecessary for a worker to have to climb them. He observed that a simple rope mechanism could open and close a silo lid. 28th July 2007

USA

Food cart breaches elevator in Philadelphia sports stadium

An elevator accident at the Citizens Bank Park sports stadium in Philadelphia at the weekend has left 2 food services workers of Aramark with serious injuries after a food wagon travelled through elevator doors at 3rd floor level on to the top of an elevator and fell 10 metres into the shaft, the operator is in critical condition, the other worker who was in the elevator has serious arm and head injuries. 30th July 2007

USA

Worker trapped 2 hours in Florida silo

A temporary worker had a fortunate escape yesterday after slipping waist-deep into a sand and rock silo at C & D Thin Pavers, Leesburg, 20 miles northwest of Orlando, the worker was cleaning the inside walls of the metal silo which converts rock into sand when he slipped and became trapped, rescuers used ropes and a safety harness to bring him out, he managed to walk away following the 2-hour ordeal. 31st July 2007.

August 2007

USA

Fall kills construction worker

A construction worker has died in an industrial accident at the under-construction Chippewa Valley Ethanol facility in Benson, 25 miles southeast of Morris, Minnesota. It is reported that the deceased, employed by Missouri-based USA Tank Sales, fell around 20m within a tank being fabricated. 1st August 2007.

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England

Horrific error at Hampshire scrap yard

A man died yesterday in a vehicle picked up and crushed by a hydraulic grab at the premises of Huntley and Sons in Southampton. The deceased was a visitor to the yard and there has been speculation that he may have returned and entered the vehicle to retrieve something just as it was being lifted. 4th August 2007.

Sri Lanka

Double confined space fatality at well

Two workers have died in a confined space accident while attempting to clean a well on commercial premises in Welimada, Badulla, the first victim had entered the well at the shop and was quickly overcome with poisonous fumes, the other victim died attempting a rescue, recovering the bodies yesterday proved hazardous given the build-up of fumes. 12th August 2007.

Sweden

Gravedigger killed in grave

A gravedigger was killed by soil ingress yesterday during excavation of a lair at Gudmuntrop cemetery in southwest Sweden, a couple of tonnes of excavated soil had been deposited in a receptacle by the graveside but it became unstable, another gravedigger who was also in the excavation managed to scramble clear. 8th August 2007.

USA

Investigation into Ohio worker's compactor death

Investigators are studying the circumstances in which a 37-year old warehouse worker was killed in midweek in a large industrial waste compactor at the premises of Sears Logistics Services, Columbus, Ohio, police have ruled out suspicious circumstances but it remains unclear how the victim entered the compactor for reducing cardboard. 17th August 2007

Japan

Vapour explosion kills shipyard painters

Two painters have died following a vapour explosion while working on a ship under construction at the IHI Corporation shipyard in Aichi, Chita, the victims were thrown some 20 metres by the blast and died of critical burn injuries. 12th August 2007.

England

Fatal industrial accident in London

It is reported that the body of a workman was found in a lift shaft on Wednesday at St Catherine's House, in London WC2. It is believed the construction worker fell from height. 17th August 2007

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France

Double confined space fatality on farm

A 60-year old farmer and his teenage nephew have died in a confined space accident while attempting to clean an empty grain silo at Castetis, near Orthez, in the Pyrenees-Atlantiques region of southwest France, they had apparently descended almost to the base when they were overcome. 20th August 2007.

USA

Fatal crush accident at Indiana automotive plant

A 47-year old female operative of Indiana Automotive Fasteners was fatally crushed on Monday at the plant in Greenfield, Indiana, the victim is believed to have been reaching into a bolt-plating machine to retrieve an object when another piece of machinery descended on top of her. 28th August 2007.

Malta

Worker injured in shaft fall

A 32-year old North African construction worker is in critical condition after falling into a shaft at a site on Dun Frans Camilleri Street in the Tar-Rabbat district of Hamrun, earlier this year 2 workers died when a ceiling caved in at the site. 30th August 2007.

September 2007

England

3 died in container

An inquest jury sitting to consider the December 2006 deaths of 3 workmen found in a container at the Kennet Island development in Berks has arrived at a verdict of misadventure. All 3 had perished from carbon monoxide poisoning given off from a generator they were using to heat the 34m³ container, they were discovered the next day by site management. 7th September 2007

Ireland

Man crushed in refuse compactor

It appears that a man who entered a refuse bin in Limerick has been killed when it was decanted into a refuse vehicle's compactor. The police were alerted following the discovery of his body at a nearby recycling centre. 20th September 2007.

USA

Worker drowns in acid vat

An 18-year old worker drowned in a sulphuric acid vat at the Coastal Circuits factory in Redwood City, California, it is speculated that the victim was overcome by fumes while treating circuit boards in an acid-copper plating tank and fell in, it is alleged that he was not wearing facial protection against the hazardous chemicals. 25th September 2007.

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Kenya

Steel mill furnace explosion kills 5 workers

A furnace explosion at the Devki Steel Mills in Athi River, 25 miles southeast of Nairobi, has killed 5 workers and seen 6 others admitted to Kenyatta National Hospital, some with 80% burns. Of 16 workers in the furnace room at the time, 3 were unaccounted for early on Tuesday morning. The company procures scrap metal, including exploded mortar shells, for the manufacture of steel bars, it is thought that unscreened live ordnance was mistakenly thrown into the furnace. 26th September 2007.

Canada

Manager trapped in fish plant freezer doors

WorkSafe British Columbia is investigating an accident at the Port Fish plant in Port Alberni which saw the plant manager trapped in freezer doors while working with a maintenance electrician, the manager was hospitalised in Vancouver but was discharged on Thursday. 28th September 2007.

October 2007

USA

Chemical fire explosion kills 5 at Colorado hydro plant

A chemical fire and explosion in an underground water pipeline has claimed the lives of 5 workers during maintenance work at the Xcel energy hydroelectric power plant outside Georgetown, Colorado. The pipeline, which carries water from a dam to the turbines, is coated with a special chemical. 4th October 2007.

Mexico

Maintenance trio succumb to fumes

Three Pemex workers have died after inhaling toxic fumes while repairing the Potrero del Llano -Naranjas pipeline at Alamo Temapache in Veracruz, state officials have alleged that the victims were not wearing appropriate safety equipment. 11th October 2007.

Russia

Stowaway's body recovered near Domodedovo airport

The body of an Asian youth was discovered in close proximity to Moscow's Domodedovo Airport and is believed to be a stowaway who fell from an aircraft, post-mortem established the cause of death as hypothermia prior to the fall.

Last month a Russian youth survived a flight in an aircraft body from the Urals to Moscow with extreme hypothermia. 23rd October 2007.

England

Construction worker killed

It is reported that a man has died in an industrial accident at the new Heathrow Terminal 5 project. The accident occurred on Saturday while the deceased was positioned in a lift shaft, he died at the scene. 29th October 2007.

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November 2007

USA

Quadruple confined space fatality at Wisconsin landfill site

A quadruple confined space fatality occurred on Thursday night in a collection tank at a landfill site in Superior, Wisconsin, where the 4 victims were overcome by hydrogen sulphide fumes in the 4-metre deep tank which contained drainage and water from the landfill. The scale of the accident reflects the efforts colleagues made to rescue victims stricken in the chamber, a 5th worker raised the alarm at the landfill site owned by Kimmes Construction. Fire crews recorded hydrogen sulphide readings of 200 parts per million, safe levels are regarded to be less than 1 part per million. 3rd November 2007.

India

Police dig out girl from Samadhi burial

North Indian police have rescued a teenage girl who had been buried alive (Samadhi) at her own behest at a village in the Chamba Valley in Himachal Pradesh where she had been regarded as a snake goddess in recent months with curative powers. Her entombment in a deep pit was attended by hundreds of locals, including media representatives, but hours later police had her dug out and transferred her to hospital where she was found to have suffered no physical injury. 6th November 2007

USA

Fatal service elevator accidents in Texas and Illinois

A 40-year old construction worker has died in an 11-storey fall down a rear freight elevator during refurbishment work at the site of the former Chicago Sun 18-storey building on West Wacker Street, Chicago, the elevator was on the ground floor of the 80-year old building when he stepped into the open shaft. A similar accident has claimed the life of a worker at the Grand Hyatt Hotel site in San Antonio, Texas, where the worker was loading a service elevator when the load shifted, causing him to fall through a gate 20 storeys to the 1st floor at the site where Faulkner USA is building the hotel. 19th November 2007.

South Africa

Manhole fatality in Guateng

A confined space accident claimed the life of one maintenance worker and has left his colleague in life-threatening condition in Benoni, on the East Rand in Guateng, where the 2 maintenance workers were attempting to clear a blockage in Main Reef Road. Both men were working in the 3-metre deep manhole when sewage ingress occurred, firemen lifted them out with ropes. 20th November 2007

USA

Fatal accident with chipper equipment

An employee of Rotonics Manufacturing was killed on Tuesday after falling into a plastic chipper machine at Bartow Municipal Airport, Florida. 21st November 2007.

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Australia

Company pleads guilty in confined space fatality

FRH Victoria Pty Ltd has pleaded guilty in County Court to a failure to provide and maintain a safe working environment in respect of a sewer fatality in Pakenham on 11th July 2003, where a 29-year old labourer was overcome by gases and fell 3 metres into the sewer and died. No documented or verbal instructions had been provided, no risk assessment conducted or adequate provision made of emergency contact details. The prosecution is seeking a fine in the range of \$220-260K (£101,382-119,816), while the company has argued for a \$40-80K (£18,433-36,866) range by stressing mitigating factors. Sentence is expected to be delivered on Friday, 20th November 2007.

Austria

Painter killed by descending lift in Vienna

A painter was killed on Monday by a descending lift cabin while working in a basement area of the lift shaft in the Wien Wieden district of Vienna. The lift was due to be decommissioned for the beginning of the painting work on Tuesday, it is not known why the 58-year old painter had begun work on Monday, he was killed instantly when the lift broke his neck. 20th November 2007.

Argentina

Petrol station tank explosion kills worker

A 50-year old worker was killed when a petrol station tank exploded during maintenance work on Sunday, the station is located between highways 7 and 88 in Miramar, another of the 30 workers on site at the time has been hospitalised in Mar del Plata. 26th November 2007.

USA

Maintenance men killed in Minnesota pipeline explosion

An explosion in an oil pipeline during maintenance work in northwest Minnesota killed 2 workers, the accident occurred 1 mile south of Clearbrook. 30th November 2007

December 2007

USA

Confined space accident at New Jersey dry cleaners

A confined space fatality claimed 2 lives at the weekend at the Morey La Rue dry cleaning company premises on Linden Avenue, New Jersey, when 2 workers were overcome by chemical fumes while attempting to clean a 20K-gallon vat, fire crews deployed breathing equipment to recover the bodies. 3rd December 2007.

Spain

Laundry worker strangled by scarf and "Calandra"

A 47-year old laundry worker was strangled on Tuesday while operating the "Calandra" machine at a local laundrette in the Cordoban village of Rivero de Posadas, a scarf around her neck became entangled in the machine which performs drying and ironing functions, strangling her when it wound around the mangle. 12th December 2007.

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India

Gas leak kills cleaner

A gas leak at Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers in the Chembur district of northeast Mumbai (Bombay) has killed 1 cleaner and left 2 others injured, it is thought that a gas valve was inadvertently opened during cleaning work. 17th December 2007.

Bhutan

Furnace material burst kills 2 workers

The issue of molten material from a furnace at Bhutan Carbide and Chemicals Ltd's plant in Pasakha, Phuentsholing, has now claimed the lives of 2 of the 6 workers injured in the incident, 3 of the survivors are listed in critical condition in hospital. 18th December 2007

South Africa

Durban worker's leg caught in grain hopper

A worker at Durban harbour lost a section of a leg on Wednesday while cleaning a grain hopper machine. It took a couple of hours for the victim to be rescued, it appears that the machine was accidentally activated and the man's leg became pinned in its rotating drum. 20th December 2007.

Japan

Subcontractor killed during lime furnace demolition

The collapse of an internal furnace wall during demolition work on Monday at a factory of Nakayama Lime Industry Company in Maniwa left 1 worker dead and 3 injured, 9 subcontract workers were demolishing the furnace which is 50-metres long and 3 metres in diameter. 25th December 2007.

Scotland

Man injured in mixer

An employee of Norvite Animal Nutrition was seriously injured last week after falling into mixing equipment at premises in Inch, Aberdeenshire. He sustained multiple injuries in Monday's accident and is said to be now making a recovery in hospital. 29th December 2007.

USA

Confined space rescue at Toledo steel plant

Toledo Fire Department deployed its confined space rescue techniques to reach a worker stuck in a 1.2m-diameter pit into which he had fallen 3m while performing maintenance work on a machine at the Ohio Pickling & Processing steel plant in Toledo, an overhead crane on the premises helped complete the rescue. 31st December 2007.

Malta

Worker falls down empty shaft

A Balkan worker has been left with life-threatening injuries after falling 3 storeys down an empty shaft at a building in Manwel Dimech Street, Sliema. 31st December 2007.

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January 2008

Japan

Triple confined space fatality

A confined space fatality has claimed 3 workers' lives in a tunnel at a site in Yahatanishi, Kitakyushu, where the laying of water pipes has been taking place. 9th January 2008.

Canada

Company fined for confined space fatality

The Ontario Court of Justice has fined Sure Fresh Foods of Bradford \$150K (£79,787) in respect of a confined space fatal accident which claimed the life of a welder in a water tank. On April 7th 2006, the worker entered the tank to weld and upon ignition an explosion occurred, inflicting fatal 3rd degree burns. Investigation established the fuel source to be clear and odourless, probably methane gas which had entered the tank from the company's well. The absence of a confined space policy and air monitoring protocol allowed the explosive build-up of gas to go undetected. The company had no written procedures for confined space entry or appropriate testing equipment for monitoring air quality in the tank. The worker had not been provided with appropriate confined space training, the company pleaded guilty to failing to provide information and instruction and supervision to the worker to protect his health and safety as required by Section 25(2)a of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. 9th January 2008.

India

Kiln explosion kills 8 maintenance workers

An accident at the Dust Section Chamber of the Sponge Iron Kiln at Godawari Power & Ispat Ltd on the Siltara Industrial Estate in the Raipur district of Chattisgarh killed 8 workers and left 2 others injured, 15 workers in all were engaged in maintenance work at the time of the accident. 15th January 2008.

England

Accidental death of employee

An inquest jury in Doncaster has determined that an employee of compost producers Scotts, who died in March 2006 at its Hatfield Moors premises, did so accidentally as the result of an industrial accident. The deceased appeared to have entered a dangerous part of a baling machine, contrary to a warning notice, when it activated, this being possible because a safeguard was not functioning at the time. 23rd January 2008.

USA

Fatality at San Francisco printing press

A 26-year old San Francisco female worker has died in a printing press crush accident at Digital Pre Press International after becoming caught in it and sustaining head and chest injuries. 31st January 2008.

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February 2008

South Africa

Fatal crush accident at foundry engine press

A fatal crush accident occurred on Tuesday afternoon at Atlantis Foundries premises, 30 miles north of Cape Town, where a subcontractor became caught in machinery which produces automotive castings for vehicles. 13th February 2008.

Sweden

Woman killed in 3m well fall

A 63-year old woman died in a 3-metre fall into a well on a smallsteading in Dalsand at the weekend, it is believed that she was attempting to retrieve a fowl which had fallen into the well. 18th February 2008.

England

Fatal accident at Dorset confectioners

A 33-year old machine operator was killed in an accident early on Wednesday at the Tangerine Confectionery plant in Poole, Dorset, it appears that the starch room operator's leg became trapped in a depositing machine. 21st February 2008.

March 2008

Taiwan

Fatal explosion during barge re-rigging

During preparatory work for re-rigging of Chaokuo No 6 barge moored at Chiating, an explosion killed 2 workers who were using acetylene equipment to cut off a steel plate on the barge. The force of the blast blew one of the workers into the water, the other was struck by the steel plate. 4th March 2008

China

Asphyxiation at steel works/ exploding sewage pump

Five workers have died in 2 separate accidents in Beijing and Shanghai. An exploding pump at a sewage works in the southwest of Beijing saw a build-up of toxic fumes kill 3 workers and hospitalise 16 others; at the Baosteel Group premises in Shanghai 2 workers died in a nitrogen rich atmosphere after entering a furnace while there to repair the furnace door. 5th March 2008

England

Worker's arm trapped at poultry plant

Fire crews attended an accident on Wednesday at Balham Poultry in Attleborough, Norfolk, where a worker's arm was trapped in a mechanical lift, cutting gear was used to release him. 13th March 2008

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Austria

Fatal crush accident in Steier dairy

A 53-year old dairyman died on Monday after being crushed by a heavy 1-tonne lid cover at a dairy in Knittelfeld, Steier. A technical fault had developed and he was bending over the large vat when the cover fell, it is speculated that a hydraulic malfunction caused the accident. 18th March 2008

UAE

Lift shaft fire at Russian embassy

An electrical malfunction is believed to have caused the fire in an elevator shaft at the Russian embassy in the United Arab Emirates, no injuries were reported. 19th March 2008

April 2008

Bangladesh

Boiler explosion kills 3 steel mill workers

A boiler explosion on Monday morning killed 3 steel mill workers at a plant in Narayanganj, 10 miles east of Dhaka, 15 others were injured. The mill had only reopened earlier this year following refurbishment work. 1st April 2008

India

Confined space accident at waste treatment plant

A confined space accident has claimed the lives of 3 workers at the waste water treatment plant of Hindustan Petroleum & Chemicals Ltd at Vizagapatnam, a port in Andhra Pradesh. As 2 workers were raising a sluice gate using a chain pulley, 1 of them lost his balance and fell in, the other victims died attempting his rescue from an oil waste sewerage tank. 2nd April 2008.

USA

Worker loses arm at Connecticut compost plant

A 29-year old worker's entire arm has been severed in an accident at the New Milford Farms composting plant in New Milford, Connecticut, it is not known if surgeons are attempting to reattach the severed limb. 4th April 2008

USA

Fatal industrial accident in Georgia

A 21-year old machine operator was killed on Friday morning in an accident at the Nichiha USA fibre cement product manufacturing plant in Macon, Georgia, it is thought that he had been trying to retrieve a marker pen which had rolled under a machine but somehow became drawn into it. 5th April 2008.

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Spain

Methanol tank explosion in Aranjuez

A methanol tank exploded on Thursday at the premises of Fysa, part of the Ercos group, on Paseo de Deleite in Aranjuez, 30 miles south of Madrid, an employee of the chemical plant who was working at the tank at the time of the incident was killed, 3 colleagues sustained critical injuries in the ensuing fire. 11th April 2008.

England

Scrapyard tragedy

One of 2 brothers visiting a scrapyard was killed when the grab of a crane mistakenly crushed the vehicle he was in last August. A misinterpreted signal from the deceased's brother led to the vehicle being crushed at the Sholing, Hampshire, premises, a verdict of accidental death was determined by a Coroner's Court jury.

7th April 2008.

USA

Arboreal fatality in California

A municipal arborist in Inglewood, Los Angeles, was killed on Wednesday after falling into tree-trimming machinery on a work assignment in 80th Street. 10th April 2008.

USA

Stokes basket rescue from aggregate bin in Massachusetts

A technical rescue team deployed a stokes basket and a crane to extract a worker of Plant Outfitters of San Antonio, Texas, who became trapped on Monday in a 5-metre deep aggregate bin at Precast Specialities Corp in Abington, Massachusetts. The worker had descended the internal ladder of the bin, which was being relined, to retrieve debris from the base but the bin's pneumatic clamshell gate which controls aggregate flow unexpectedly opened. He fell through, his legs becoming trapped as it closed again. A stokes basket rescue brought him up to the top of the bin, then a crane and forklift completed the rescue. He is believed to have broken an ankle in the accident. 23rd April 2008.

New Zealand

Worker's legs severed at recycling plant

A worker at the Taranaki Recycling plant on Waste Management's site at Bell Block, northeast of New Plymouth, has had his legs severed below the knee after becoming trapped in a baling machine at the plant. 23rd April 2008.

England

Lift shaft death

A worker has died in an incident at the premises of A&F Carpets in Brigg, Lincolnshire. Emergency services attended to free the man who was positioned between the lift's car and the shaft wall but he died at the scene before he could be rescued. 23rd April 2008.

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May 2008

USA

Mississippi boiler explosion fatality

A contract worker was killed in a boiler explosion at the weekend during maintenance work in the steam room area of International Paper Company's plant in Redwood, southwest Mississippi, it is thought that the explosion occurred as the boiler was being reactivated. The explosion left 17 other contract workers with burns of varying severity. 5th May 2008.

Slovakia

Boy pulled out of disused mine shaft

A 10-year old boy was rescued on Sunday after falling into a 70-metre deep disused mine shaft at Roznava in southeast Slovakia. The boy had been playing with friends in an area of thick undergrowth above the shaft, it took some time for rescuers to locate the exact spot. Fire crews used cables and an improvised frame stretcher to lift him out, the condition of his injuries remains unknown. 5th May 2008.

England

Blast kills Lancs man

It is reported that a man has died at industrial premises in Houghton Road, St Helens, the report states that he was injured by an explosion as he was cutting into a drum. 5th May 2008.

USA

Worker killed in fall down shaft at Florida site

A Florida worker died in a fall of 4 storeys down an empty shaft at the site of a new parking garage on South Pennsylvania Avenue, Winter Park, Orlando, he was working at a wall, a section of which fell down with him. 7th May 2008.

Australia

Hotel worker rescued from burning lift

Tasmanian fire crews managed to rescue a hotel worker from a burning elevator in Hobart's Mercure Hotel, the lift had become stuck at 4th floor level and hydraulic cutting gear normally used at road accidents was required to open the shaft doors at ground level. The shaft was considerably smoke-logged from flames burning on the elevator's exterior. 12th May 2008.

England

Machine crush fatality at Yorks printers

A worker has died after becoming trapped in machinery at the printing premises of the Bezier group in Wakefield, Yorkshire. 10th May 2008.

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Australia

Worker killed in packaging machinery

WorkCover NSW is investigating a fatal crush accident at the Vinidex packaging factory in Smithfield, west Sydney, where a maintenance worker died when machinery he was working on suddenly activated. 21st May 2008.

Romania

Incinerator explosion kills 2 subcontractors at Pirochim Victoria

An explosion on Monday at the waste incinerator of Pirochim, a subsidiary of weapons producer Romarm, killed 2 employees of subcontractor Sparomex who were working at the site in Victoria, central Romania. 27th May 2008

Scotland

Possible confined space fatality on freighter at Ayr

Strathclyde Police have attended an incident in Ayr on Monday afternoon following the discovery of 2 bodies in the hold of a freighter, the Pascal, which had just docked in the harbour. Identification has yet to take place, it has yet to be ascertained if this is a confined space fatality. 27th May 2008.

Iran

30 killed in chemical plant explosion

Hot metal work in a tank is speculated as the cause of a major fire on Sunday at a chemical plant specialising in detergents and cosmetics near Shazand, 200 miles south of Tehran, where at least 30 people died and a further 38 were injured. 27th May 2008.

England

Worker was buried by waste

White Reclamation Ltd has been fined £50,000 with costs of £30,000 at Manchester Crown Court having breached Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 in the circumstances of an accident at an Eccles waste transfer site in July 2003. The deceased, a driver, was buried in waste, investigation found no segregation of pedestrian or vehicles and no marshal or traffic management system. 29th May 2008.

June 2008

USA

Activated auger kills worker at San Francisco asphalt plant

A failure to maintain lock-out mode on auger machinery has led to the death of a 37-year-old worker at the Graniterock asphalt plant in south San Francisco. The victim was inside an auger transporter used to move asphalt and was doing maintenance work when the system was accidentally activated, other machines were apparently being maintained at the same time. 6th June 2008.

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USA

Crush accident in Delaware grain silo

A 46-year old Delaware worker was crushed to death under 20 tonnes of soybean meal at Allens Hatchery in Delmar, he was working on a forklift when a trap door accidentally opened, releasing the meal. 6th June 2008.

Russia

Welding explosion kills 7 in Kaliningrad dry dock

An explosion occurred during hot work on Friday in the container ship Yenisey at the Baltiysk dry dock in Kaliningrad, killing at least 7 workers, another 3 workers were badly injured and 3 others were missing. The Yenesei is operated by the Enex company of St Petersburg. 7th June 2008.

Scotland

Explosion kills workman

It is reported that a man in his 50's has died in an industrial accident at the premises of Ross Agricultural Services in St Cyrus, Angus. The accident occurred on Saturday, one account states he was grinding an empty drum when it exploded. 10th June 2008.

Singapore

Shipyard explosion during vessel painting

An investigation is now studying the circumstances into a fatal explosion at the Tuas shipyard of Kreuz Shipbuilding and Engineering where a painter among a squad of 14 workers was killed in the incident during painting inside a boat. 12th June 2008.

England

Fatal crush accident at West Midlands recycling plant

HSE is investigating a fatal crush accident which occurred at the Sita Recycling unit in Tipton, West Midlands, the worker is believed to have been attempting to clear a blockage of cardboard in machinery at the rear of the premises which handles shredding of waste paper. 14th June 2008.

USA

Florida worker injured in lift shaft fall

A construction worker broke his collar bone and sustained head injuries in a fall down an open elevator shaft at a dwellinghouse in 7th St Court East in Ellenton, 30 miles south of Tampa, the 25-year old's 4-metre fall was from the 2nd floor of the building. 17th June 2008.

England

Confined space death in ship

It is reported that a crewman died in an incident within a ballast tank of the Saga Rose as it berthed at Southampton on Wednesday last week. A colleague who attempted a rescue required hospital treatment. 16th June 2008.

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Switzerland

Farmer killed cleaning harvester

A 65-year old farmer has died in an accident while cleaning his combine harvester after work in Wilchingen, Schaffhausen, when he became caught in moving parts. 21st June 2008.

Northern Ireland

Auger killed dairy worker

Craigavon Crown Court has fined a dairy company £100,000 for breaching safety legislation. During February 2006, an employee of Glanbia Cheese Ltd died after being crushed by an auger in a tank, a direct result of a failure to provide the 22-year old with a safe system of work and to prevent him accessing this dangerous part of the equipment. 20th June 2008.

July 2008

China

Girls killed in fall into open sewage tank in Shanghai

An uncovered sewage tank at a site on Jinqiao Road in the Qingpu district of Shanghai led to the deaths of 2 girls aged 4 and 5 who fell in while playing there. 3rd July 2008.

South Africa

Farm worker's hand severed in unguarded harvester

A farm worker is recovering in Bophelang Hospital in Mafikeng (previously Mafeking) after losing his hand while working with a ground nut harvesting machine at a farm in Delareyville, his clothing became snagged and pulled him off balance, drawing his hand into the machinery whose blades were unguarded. 2nd July 2008.

Scotland

Lift shaft death fall

A resident at the Cube Housing Association's flats in the Wyndford area of Maryhill, Glasgow, has died after falling down a lift shaft. The deceased, aged 32, fell 25m during the early hours of Wednesday, reports suggest the lift had broken down and was stationary at the time. 10th July 2008.

Spain

Worker killed during lift installation in Madrid

A worker has died when a cable broke during installing of a service lift at premises in Alcobendas, Madrid, the 32-year old worker for Ascensores Express, under contract to Uicesa, was inside the lift which fell 20 metres, and was then trapped under a detached metal panel. This was the 75th national workplace fatality of 2008. 23rd July 2008.

South Africa

Elderly resident drowns at Limpopo village well

A 75-year old woman resident of Cottendale, Bushbuckridge, in Limpopo province,

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drowned last week while drawing water at a village well, this was the 3rd such death in 3 years in the village where alleged vandalism to boreholes has created a water shortage. 21st July 2008.

France

Lift worker's death probed for illegal activity

The Public Prosecutor's Department has opened an inquiry into the death of a 47-year old Romanian who was allegedly working illegally when he was killed while undertaking maintenance work on Schindler lifts at a building on avenue Maine in the 14th arrondissement of Paris. 26th July 2008.

Greece

Welding accident kills 8 at Perama shipyard

The Greek Merchant Ministry has announced that the death tally from the explosion aboard the Panamanian-flagged tanker Friendship Gas rose to 8 on Friday when 3 other bodies were recovered. Hot metal work was being undertaken near the ship's engine room while berthed at the Perama Shipyard, 12 miles west of Athens, when the explosion occurred, 4 other workers are recovering in Thriassio Hospital. Later on Friday police arrested the ship's safety technician and a marine chemist in connection with the incident. 26th July 2008.

Scotland

Woman killed in mine shaft fall

A 44-year old woman has died following a 15m fall down a shaft of former mine workings near her home in Galston, Ayrshire. Reports state that she may have fallen following ground subsidence while walking in the area to which the public have access. 28th July 2008.

Romania

Double cement mixer fatality in Medgidia

Two workers were killed yesterday when a cement mixer inside which they were conducting maintenance activated, fatal injuries being inflicted by heavy 18Kg grinding balls, the accident happened at the Lafrage SA plant in Medgidia, 110 miles east of Bucharest. 31st July 2008.

August 2008

Sweden

Farm worker killed under tonnes of grain

A chute from a stock fodder hopper failed on a farm near Jonkopping, causing several tonnes of fodder to bury a farm worker there. 4th August 2008.

USA

Michigan worker killed in lift shaft fall

An employee of Schindler Elevator Corporation was killed on Monday in a 5-storey fall

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into an empty shaft at the site of the Stephen Ross Business School extension of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. 5th August 2008.

England

Harness anchors essential in some situations

An employee of Mowlem Plc, now known as Carillion JM Ltd, fell to his death at the Air BP Ltd on the Isle of Grain, Kent, on 11th December 2003 while engaged on work to build large steel oil storage tanks. Whilst altering work platforms to allow a roof structure to be lifted into place by 4 cranes, and standing on a platform on the outside of the tank close to the top ready to rebuild an internal scaffold platform, he climbed onto the incomplete platform on the inside of the tank when 1 of the 3 platform boards snapped, causing him to fall 17 metres below. Carillion JM Ltd was fined £70,000 with £24,000 costs for breaching S.2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, an HSE Inspector commented: "This was a wholly avoidable incident which led to unnecessary loss of life. The deceased was wearing a safety harness, in line with company policy, but there was no suitable anchor point for him to attach the lanyard to. For the harnesses to be used effectively there needed to be about 50 anchor points around the rim of the storage tank. The company's procedures did not require these to be fitted prior to the crane lift starting, and this was a major weakness in their system of work. Usually in the tank building industry it is easier to use a system of dedicated harness anchors that are welded into place prior to construction." 7th August 2008.

Japan

5 feared dead in Tokyo sewage surge accident

A surge of sewage at a site in Toshima, southeast Tokyo, has killed 1 worker and left 4 others missing, a 6th worker, all employees of Hokuritsu Construction & Industry Company, managed to survive the incident. They were engaged by the local authority to repair a pipeline close to Mejiro station on the Yamanote loop line, the dead worker was recovered 2 miles away in the Kanda River, the search continued late on Tuesday for the others. 6th August 2008.

USA

Missouri worker's arm severed in press

A Missouri worker lost an arm yesterday in an accident while inserting cardboard boxes into a large printing press at the premises of Arrowhead Containers, Kansas City. 8th August 2008.

India

Triple fatality at steel plant as hopper falls

A hopper laden with 600 tonnes of sponge iron fell on workers on Monday at the Jindal Steel & Power works in Raigarh, 140 miles west of Raipur, 2 workers were killed instantly, another was listed missing in the accident. 12th August 2008.

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England

Man killed in fall

A construction workman died last Thursday after falling into an open manhole at the Lyme Green Business Park in Macclesfield. He fell some 10 metres down into the drain below while working on a project to construct a holding chamber for United Utilities. 21st August 2008.

Iceland

Double confined space fatality at power plant site

A confined space accident has killed 2 East European workers at the Hellisheidarvirkjun Geothermal Power Plant, Kolvidarholl Olfusi, south Iceland, the pair were employed by Altak and had entered a steam pipe unit with an oxygen-deficient atmosphere, the accident is under investigation by the Icelandic Occupational Safety & Health Authority. 22nd August 2008.

USA

Confined space accident in New York sewage vehicle

A confined space accident has left 2 workers in critical condition after exposure to hydrogen sulphide while cleaning the inside of a tanker lorry used to transport sewage, other members of the crew experienced lesser exposure in the incident at Precision Industrial Maintenance in Schenectady, New York. 28th August 2008.

England

Farming death in Worcestershire

An accident on a farm has claimed the life of a farmer from Conderton in Gloucestershire. It is reported that he died following an incident on Monday while harvesting with a combine. 28th August 2008.

September 2008

Philippines

Hydrogen sulphide fatality at Petron refinery

A confined space accident has left 1 worker dead and another rescued unconscious after being exposed to hydrogen sulphide during drainage of a collecting drum of the sour water facility at Petron Corp's oil refinery in Bataan. 2nd September 2008.

England

Farming fatal accident in Staffs

It is reported that a farm worker died on Tuesday in an industrial accident on a farm at Shapley Heath, Staffs. One account states he died after becoming caught up in hay baling equipment. 1st September 2008.

India

Collapsed water tank kills 10 workers on Haryana site

Charges may be preferred under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code following the

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collapse of a recently built water tank at a new build site in Bass Haria, Haryana, where 10 workers were killed under the rubble of concrete and bricks, Era Infra Engineering Pvt Ltd is developing a new office block at the site. Seven others were injured, workers were engaged in kitchen activity and ablutions when the collapse occurred. Preliminary investigation alleges a defective structure and gross negligence. 6th September 2008.

Japan

Second worker recovered from underground pipe

On Monday morning the body of a 40-year old worker was recovered dead approximately half way along a 1.2km industrial pipe located 5 metres underground in Yokkaichi, Mie, from where a 48-year old colleague had been brought out unconscious on Sunday, dying later in hospital. High levels of hydrogen sulphide have been detected in the pipe. 9th September 2008.

New Zealand

Manager killed in sand hopper accident

A Labour Ministry investigation is underway following the death of the masonry supply manager of Firth Industries in Richmond, Nelson, who was killed in an accident after becoming trapped under 4 tonnes of sand in a hopper at the concrete plant. 17th September 2008.

Canada

Confined space accident at BC mushroom farm

A confined space accident has killed 2 maintenance workers and left 3 others in critical condition following the incident in an underground pump house at Farmers Fresh Mushrooms Inc in Langley, British Columbia. It appears that 2 electricians had been working in the 35m² chamber 2 metres underground when the alarm was raised and the other 4 workers launched a desperate rescue attempt. One of the 4 survivors has been released from hospital but has been unable to assist as yet with the WorkSafeBC investigation. Initial speculation suggests a leakage from a compost mixer pipe and a build-up of toxic gas. 9th September 2008.

Scotland

2 died in mixer

The tragic deaths of 2 men could have been easily prevented if the power supply to the machine they were working on had been properly isolated. On 26th November 2005, they were cleaning inside an animal feed mixer which started up unexpectedly and without warning, investigations showed that the power supply to the mixer was not properly isolated and that a wiring error inside the mixer control system meant the switches the men had used to turn the machine off were bypassed, allowing the machine to start up under computer control. Employers Galloway and MacLeod Ltd were fined £18,750 (£25,000), Barr Electrical Contractors Ltd were fined £45,000 (£60,000), both fines were reduced by 25% following guilty pleas being tendered. 10th September 2008.

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England

Farming death in Cheshire

A farm worker in his 20's has died after becoming trapped in agricultural machinery on Tuesday. The accident occurred at Huxley, west of Tarporley. 12th September 2008.

Austria

Worker killed in lift shaft fall in Vienna; worker drawn into roller in Steyr

At a house in Lassalle Street in the Leopoldstadt district of Vienna a worker was killed on Monday in a fall from 2nd floor level into an empty lift shaft, the property is being renovated and a lift is being installed. Also on Monday, a 43-year old Steyr worker was drawn into a roller by his clothing which snagged at a machine works in Langenwang, a colleague managed to deactivate the machinery as quickly as possible but the victim remains in life-threatening condition in hospital in Graz with serious spinal injuries and significant blood loss. 16th September 2008.

Spain

Worker killed in Costa Brava lift shaft

A 59-year old maintenance worker was killed on Monday while working on a lift at an office block in Lloret de Mar, he was working in an open lift shaft at 1st floor level when a hoist loaded with rubble descended on him from the 5th floor. 23rd September 2008.

England

Staffs farming death

A farmer has died in an accident involving agricultural machinery. Sunday's accident occurred at Abbots Bromley, near Uttoxeter, the deceased was discovered in a field at the machinery, there has been speculation he had been attempting a repair to it. 24th September 2008.

South Africa

Confined space fatality at Cape steel works

A maintenance worker has died from gas exposure in a confined space accident at the Saldanha Works steel plant of ArcelorMittal north of Cape Town, a colleague is listed in critical condition but a contractor is stable, 4 other workers affected have been released from hospital. 24th September 2008.

France

Roofer killed in fall from Breton silo

A roofer from Louvigne-de-Bais fell 12 metres to his death on Wednesday while repairing the roof of the Coopedom silo in Domagne, Brittany. 25th September 2008.

England

Danger of scrap metal processing

A man died in an industrial accident in May 2005 when an explosion occurred as he fed gas cylinders into a crusher/compactor to shear them, the resultant fireball of acetylene inflicted serious burns both to him and a company director at the premises of Reliance

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Scrap-Metal Merchants in Poole, Dorset. The company was fined a total of £60,000, the Director a total of £1,000. An HSE inspector advises: "I urge the scrap industry to think very carefully about how it deals with gas cylinders, they should never be cut or crushed and remember that most cylinders remain the property of a gas company and should be returned. If you do come across gas cylinders in your scrap-yard, then take them out of the process and store them in secure compound before contacting the cylinder owners to arrange collection." 25th September 2008.

USA

Ohio worker's arm drawn into machine at fruit processing factory

A worker's arm was drawn into machinery on Monday morning after his clothing snagged on the equipment at the Cincinnati Preserving factory in the northeast suburb of Sharonville, Ohio, colleagues deactivated the machine and he was flown to hospital by helicopter where his condition was unknown. 30th September 2008.

October 2008

USA

Fatal accidents on Illinois and Iowa farms

A 27-year old male has died from suffocation inside a grain silo at farm near Addieville, Illinois, where he and another worker had been engaged atop the corn levelling the mass. It is speculated that he had ventured towards the central area which failed to bear his weight. Fire crews recovered his body after an hour, cutting out sections of the bin. Investigators are also studying the death of an 81-year old Iowa farmer who died after becoming caught in the rear of a manure spreader on farmland near Orange City. 1st October 2008.

USA

Welding explosion at Hawaiian waste oil processing plant

An explosion during hot metal work has killed a Hawaiian welder and left 3 other workers injured, the accident occurred at a waste oil processing plant on Campbell Industrial Park, Honolulu. The 9,500-gallon tank contained waste oil awaiting process, 1 of the contract workers of Philip Services was in the process of welding the tank when it exploded, blowing him 30 metres away. 9th October 2008.

USA

Brooklyn manhole explosion kills utility worker

A Consolidated Edison utility worker was killed in a manhole explosion in Brooklyn on Thursday, the accident has also left a colleague with critical burns injuries in Brookdale Hospital. The workers were splicing cables in the manhole at the junction of Euclid and Sutter Avenue when the explosion occurred. 10th October 2008.

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England

Printing industry fatality

A man in his 40's died on Monday when he was crushed by a folding machine at a printers in Peterborough. The man died in hospital after being taken there from the premises of St Ives Web, he is reported to have been maintaining the equipment at the time. 11th October 2008.

USA

Agency worker suffocated at composting unit

A recruitment agency job placement worker was suffocated while working at the Organic Technologies recycling/composting unit on Washington Avenue North, Minneapolis, after falling into an accumulation of bagged leaves prior to its reduction to leaf-mould. 29th October 2008.

Scotland

Silo accident worker loses foot

A man in his 50's is seriously ill after sustaining multiple injuries to both legs on Monday afternoon in an industrial accident involving silo equipment at the premises of Pauls Malt Ltd in Burrelton, Perthshire. Emergency services required some considerable time to free the man and take him to hospital where it later became necessary to amputate a foot. 29th October 2008.

The Netherlands

Explosion during tank cleaning at Dordrecht

A worker was injured in an explosion on Thursday at Den Hartog Cleaning on the Dordtsche Kil industrial estate in Dordrecht during the cleaning of a tank, it is speculated that a substance used in the process ignited. 31st October 2008.

November 2008

USA

Machinery fatality on New York farm

A 40-year old farm worker has died after his clothing became snagged on harvesting machinery he was lubricating at the Thomas Smith farm in Springport, New York state. 3rd November 2008

USA

Youth survives experience in recycling compacter

A 14-year old youth has survived being trapped and transported inside a Waste Management recycling compacter in Milwaukee. The youth, who was absconding from a detention centre, had been hiding in a cardboard recycling bin and found himself tipped into the collecting wagon which continued its run, making further collections. He was discovered at the Germantown depot in semi-conscious condition having been tipped on to a conveyor belt for a baler and was rushed to hospital where his injuries are not life-threatening. 6th November 2008.

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England

Workman was killed by baler

The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd of Godalming, Surrey, has been fined £80,000 with costs of £19,962 at Sheffield Crown Court in connection with a fatal industrial accident at its premises at Stainforth Moor Peat Works at Thorne, Yorkshire, on 2 March 2006.

A baler operator was fatally injured after becoming trapped by hydraulic equipment within an area used for baling when he apparently entered the enclosure and inadvertently activated a sensor, starting up the machinery.

The baler enclosure had not been properly secured to prevent access.

An HSE official commented: "Employers have a duty of care to their employees and it is not good enough at any time to rely on temporary or makeshift arrangements in the hope that these will be adequate for safe working. When any repair work or new installation is undertaken risk assessments must be updated and appropriate measures taken to ensure the safety of employees." 15th November 2008

USA

Worker killed in fall from Kansas elevator

A 25-year old maintenance worker died in a fall from the top of an elevator at Lucas Co-op Elevators in Lucas, 45 miles northwest of Salina, Kansas. 25th November 2008

Austria

Worker's arm severed at waste facility

The lower arm of a 58-year old waste process worker was severed on Tuesday in an accident at a facility in St Margarethen an der Raab, Weiz, when his clothing snagged as he was attempting to clean a machine, he has undergone emergency surgery in Graz. 26th November 2008.

France

Farmer's wife dies in slurry tank accident

A 38-year old woman was killed on Thursday after falling into a slurry tank on Surville farm at Castilly in Normandy, her husband tried but failed to rescue the woman whose body was recovered later in the day by fire crews. 28th November 2008.

December 2008

Italy

5 deaths on grim day for workplace safety

A bleak day for Italian workplace safety saw 5 workers killed in separate accidents and several more workers critically injured. At a steel plant in Tenaris di Dalmine near Bergamo a 20-year old man was crushed by a falling 1-tonne steel cylinder; a 21-year old died in a transport accident at a gravel quarry in Torretta di Gallivola; a diver working in the River Brembo at San Pellegrino apparently succumbed to hypothermia; a 37-year old worker died on a construction site in Santa Giustina; and at Amatrice, in Riete, 1 worker died and 2 were seriously injured in an unstable excavation collapse at a dwellinghouse site.

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Serious injuries to workers were also reported from around the country. Last night a construction worker was undergoing emergency surgery to save his legs after sustaining life-threatening injuries when he fell into a cement mixer at Bellaria Igea Marina near Rimini. A 60-year old worker is listed in critical condition after falling 6 metres from the roof of a building in Brescia; and at Scanzorosciate a 39-year old Senegalese worker is facing amputation of a finger after a machine accident. 10th December 2008.

England

Cleaner died of horrific head injury

An inquest jury returning a narrative verdict has criticised a meat processing company for its use of an adopted unsafe system of work that led to a cleaner sustaining a fatal head injury in May 2007. The cleaner, in her 50's, was inspecting a flap device under a blender when it unexpectedly activated. A clipboard had been positioned to defeat a sensor instead of the required isolation of the equipment, it is thought that the deceased may have upset the clipboard herself. The accident occurred at the DeliCo premises in the Tattenhoe area of Milton Keynes. 5th December 2008

France

Confined space death at cider factory

A workplace accident investigation has been launched at the Le Brun cider factory in Plovan, Finisterre, where a worker was found dead at the weekend. Fire crews from Pouldreuzic and paramedics from Pont-l'Abbe attended the incident but could not revive the man who is believed to have been the victim of a confined space accident. 15th December 2008

England

Berks coy fined after recycling plat death

At Swindon Crown Court SITA(UK) Ltd was fined £180K plus £38K costs in respect of a fatal accident in August 2005 at its Berkshire recycling centre where a worker, neither trained nor authorised to use a paper baler, died after falling into the compressor in an attempt to clear a blockage. An HSE inspector observed: "Where a blockage occurs, work to clear it should only be undertaken under a written system of work, backed up by a full permit to work system." 16th December 2008

England

Fatal accident at silo

An incident at a farm silo near Ainthorpe in Yorkshire's Esk Valley on Wednesday claimed the life of a man in his 40's. The deceased was released from the grain silo by emergency services but died at the scene. 15th December 2008

Australia

Boy swept away down flood drain

A 6-year old Queensland boy has drowned after being swept away down a storm water drain in Farleigh, 350 miles north of Brisbane, where he was playing with his sister. The

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rush of water carried him 100 metres away, he was later pronounced dead at Mackay Base hospital. 29th December 2008

China

Furnace explosion kills 17 at Hebei steel works

The number of fatalities in the blast furnace explosion at the Ganglu Iron & Steel Co plant in Zunhua, Hebei, has risen to 17, with 27 other workers being treated for injuries. A gas explosion occurred when a ventilation panel on the furnace's gravity dust filter burst, on Monday the Chinese Administration of Work Safety was stressing that work safety inspections and safety audits should be increased at such premises. 30th December 2008

January 2009

Brazil

Girl survives 5-day fall into disused well

A young girl who fell into a dry well on New Year's Day at a ranch in Ariquemes, Roraima, has been rescued in a dehydrated condition having lost 3Kg of weight, with only bruises and insect bites to be treated. Initially it was feared that she had been swept away in a river. 8th January 2009

February 2009

USA

Confined space death at Georgia landfill

A confined space accident claimed the life of an employee of Quality Drilling at the Seminole Road Landfill site in Ellenwood, Georgia, where he fell down an 18-metre deep well shaft upon removing a cover, the company has been engaged in introducing pipes into the shafts to release methane gas. 9th February 2009

Iceland

Confined space accident in trawler hold

A confined space fatal accident in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere was narrowly averted at Akranes harbour when 2 trawlermen were brought out of the hold of the Ingunn AK during the unloading of a catch of pearlside. The first fisherman was overcome in the atmosphere in which the fish were in an advancing state of decomposition, the second man making a rescue attempt was also overcome. Colleagues used firefighting gear on the boat to reach the stricken pair and attach ropes to lift them out in a 20-minute rescue. Both are recovering in hospital in Reykjavik. Pearlside are small fish and decompose quicker, a trial system on the Ingunn AK has

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been using fresh water to chill the catch rather than brine to control the salt content.
10th February 2009

USA

Welder killed in hot work accident at Washington potato plant

A confined space accident rescue team was required to recover the body of a welder who died in an explosion while working in a tank at the ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston potato processing plant in Boardman, Washington, the victim is believed to have been a subcontractor of Northwest Metal Fabricators. 19th February 2009

Gaza

Confined space incident kills 5 in contraband tunnel

Five persons, presumed to have been smuggling, died over the weekend in a confined space accident in the Rafah tunnel between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. 23rd February 2009

Japan

Woman killed in fall down lift shaft at food plant

A 57-year old woman has died in a fall down a lift shaft at Ogawa Foods in Himeji where she was engaged in transporting stock down from the 2nd floor of the building to the 1st floor level. She was found wedged between the lift cage and the shaft wall, having fallen down to the 1st floor. The lift's doors are operated manually and only upon arrival at a floor. 27th February 2009

March 2009

Japan

Worker's body found in compressed paper bale

The body of a 69-year old part-time worker has been found in a bale of compressed waste paper at a paper-processing mill in Kiyosu, Aichi, although it is presumed a workplace accident police have yet to rule out foul play. 3rd March 2009.

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Mexico

Confined space incident claims 6 lives

A confined space accident in an improvised underground tunnel killed 6 people this week in San Jose Rincon, 4 of the victims included 2 construction workers, a paramedic and a fireman attempting the rescue of 2 adventurers, in their 60's, in search of a presumed cache of hidden treasure under the former Hacienda de San Onofre. The tunnel, whose entrance was barely 4 metres wide, ran for 50 metres in length, 15 metres underground. To remove accumulations of water a fuel-powered pump was being used by the treasure seekers, which would have led to a build-up of fumes. During the Mexican Revolution of 1910-17/20 (the Francisco Madero uprising) many padrones abandoned their ranches and it was rumoured they buried their wealth, the Hacienda de San Onofre was home to a wealthy mining family. 5th March 2009

Uruguay

Cleaner killed in mixer accident at dairy cooperative

A 26-year old cleaner was killed in an accident on Tuesday at the Conaprole (Cooperative Nacional de Productores de Leche) dairy cooperative in Soriano when a colleague inadvertently activated an industrial food mixer he was cleaning, Conaprole is Uruguay's 2nd largest private company. 18th March 2009

USA

Teenager lost arm in laundry washing machine accident

It remained unclear whether surgeons managed to successfully reattach the lower arm of a 13-year old who was the victim of an accident at a community laundromat on Portland Avenue, Rochester, New York, at the weekend. He was using a coin-operated front-loading washing machine and it is speculated that he thought he heard the machine pause during its cycle but when he opened the door and reached in the machine reactivated, his arm becoming wrapped in the contents and severing above the elbow. Although he experienced significant loss of blood, it was believed that he would survive the incident. 24th March 2009

India

Confined space accident kills 2 sewerage workers in Rajasthan

A confined space accident has killed 2 workers excavating a sewerage pipeline in the Pratap Nagar area of Jaipur, both victims were working for a subcontractor to the local Housing Board and were part of a team of 8 workers attempting to clear a blockage. They had excavated to a depth of 4 metres when 2 were overcome by the atmosphere, a 3rd worker lowered by rope in an attempted rescue also lost consciousness but was responding to treatment in hospital. 31st March 2009

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April 2009

USA

Subcontractor killed in boiler at Missouri power plant

A worker of Team Industrial Services, subcontracted to Kansas City Power & Light, has been killed in an accident inside a boiler at the Iatan 2 power plant which is under construction in Platte County, northwest Missouri. 1st April 2009

China

Confined space fatal accident at Sichuan paper mill

During cleaning in a paper mill in the village of Guangfo, in Dongpo District of Sichuan, 2 workers were overcome by a gaseous atmosphere and fell into a paper pulp pool and died, 4 others were critically injured in attempting their rescue, although 2 of the latter were responding to hospital treatment on Sunday. The Dongpo District Administration of Work Safety is investigating the incident today. 6th April 2009.

USA

Lift engineer dies in accident in closed Ohio hotel

A lift engineer died in an accident on Monday at the Holiday Inn on West Lane Avenue, Columbus, the premises were closed last month with a view to reopening as student accommodation close to the Ohio State University campus. 14th April 2009.

England

Boy burned in fall into caustic liquid tank

A 9-year old boy is being treated for severe burns sustained in a fall into a tank of caustic liquid at a former workshop in Bear Tree Street, Rawmarsh, Rotherham. He had gone on to the roof of the disused workshop to retrieve a ball but the roof failed to bear his weight. 17th April 2009

USA

Confined space fatality at Illinois food plant

Specialist rescue teams attended a confined space fatal accident on Wednesday at the ACH Food plant in Champaign, Illinois, where a 46-year old worker, who was preparing a railway wagon for loading with vegetable oil, was found dead inside the empty wagon in a building on the premises. 23rd April 2009.

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May 2009

Australia

Confined space death in Victoria service station LPG tank

A maintenance worker has died in a confined space accident while working on the valves and piping of a 16K-litre underground LPG tank at a Utd Petroleum service station on Macarthur Street, Ballarat, 2 passing members of the public acted promptly to pull him out of the manhole by the legs but he succumbed to the toxic atmosphere where gas was believed to be leaking. 7th May 2009.

Australia

Paint vapour and hot work led to confined space explosion

A SafeWork South Australia prosecution has resulted in a total fine of \$72K (£36,897) against Diesel and Marine Services who pleaded guilty to 2 breaches of health and safety regulations in respect of a confined space explosion accident in which a painter and welder were injured when welding sparks ignited paint vapour in the hold of a fishing boat in Port Lincoln in May 2006, no risk assessment or provision for ventilation had been made. 6th May 2009.

Canada

Nova Scotia farmer fined over manure pit drowning

At a court in Halifax, Nova Scotia, a farmer has been fined \$25K (£14,223) and ordered to complete 160 hours of agricultural community service after pleading guilty to a violation of provincial worker-safety laws in respect of the death of a teenage worker who drowned in a manure pit at Bellands farm in Middle Musquodoboit in August 2006. The teenager was operating a tractor to clear manure from a barn to the pit into which the vehicle overturned. At the time of the accident a barrier protecting the pit had been damaged and was removed pending replacement. The judge also accepted in mitigation of the employer that the worker had not been fully fit for work on the day of the accident. 8th May 2009.

USA

Florida lift engineer killed

A fatal accident has occurred at a building in Century Village, west of West Palm Beach, where a maintenance engineer died in a lift shaft after his head became stuck in an elevator on which he was working. 12th May 2009.

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USA

Worker crushed in ice machine at Massachusetts seafood plant

A Massachusetts fish factory worker has died in a crush accident involving ice-manufacturing machinery at Northern Wind Inc's seafood processing plant in New Bedford. 6th May 2009

Scotland

2 dead in Argyll confined space incident

Two men have died and another has been treated in hospital after what has been described as a confined space incident aboard a barge moored in Loch Creran, north of Oban, on Scotland's west coast. The incident occurred yesterday morning, the barge is operated by Scottish Sea Farms. 12th May 2009.

Japan

Workshop owner dies in lift accident

The proprietor of Shop Okuno in Shizuoka has died in an accident involving an elevator on the 2nd floor level of his workshop after his head became trapped between the elevator doors and the lift shaft. 14th May 2009

Italy

Triple confined space fatality in Sardinia refinery

The inhalation of toxic gases killed 3 maintenance contractors who became trapped on Tuesday in the desulphurization unit of the Saras refinery in Sarroch, 15 miles from Cagliari, the refinery has been idle during a maintenance programme. At least 1 of the workers died attempting a rescue of a stricken colleague, 2 other contractors survived the accident and are being treated in hospital in Cagliari 27th May 2009

England

Farmer killed accidentally

An inquest into the death in December last year of a farmer has determined accidental death. The 48-year old farmer had entered a grain silo to clear a blockage on a farm at Danby and was overcome by the gaseous products of fermentation, having ventilated the confined space for only 15 minutes rather than the required 24 hours. The adoption of other protective measures such as forced ventilation would have prevented the tragedy. 26th May 2009

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June 2009

Scotland

Worker fell to his death

A 53-year old worker fell 3 metres down a shaft on a building site in Dundee on the 29th May 2008 sustaining fatal injuries. The shaft had no proper barriers around its opening, only the type of barrier normally found at a roadworks. At Dundee Sheriff Court Discovery Homes (Scotland) Limited of Kinross was fined £5,000 after pleading guilty to breaching S.2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. A Director of the company, who also performed the duties of site manager, was fined £4,000 after pleading guilty to breaching S.37(1) of the same Act. 9th June 2009

India

Confined space double fatality in north Delhi

Two workers engaged in cleaning a sewer died in a confined space accident on Wednesday in Maurice Nagar, north Delhi, police are preparing charges of death by negligence. 4th June 2009

England

Worker fell into shredder

A worker who fell into a shredder was fortunate to escape with his life but sustained serious injuries. The January 2007 incident at Snowflake Animal Bedding Ltd in Ashton-under-Lyme happened as the worker, who was standing on a conveyor belt which fed hay bales into the shredder, was cutting strings that were holding bales together. As a bale fell apart, the man lost his balance and fell into the shredder. Snowflake was fined £13,300 with full costs of £8,655 at Boston Magistrates' Court 23rd June 2009

France

Body found in Vendee well

Police in Sud Vendee are describing the death of a worker found in a well at Sainte-Radegonde-des-Noyes as accidental, the discovery was made by a neighbour, the body had lain at the bottom of the well for an estimated 2 days. 19th June 2009

Italy

Double confined space fatality at Ligurian water treatment works

A confined space accident on Monday claimed the lives of 2 workers aged 36 and 40 of CIEM who were hired by the municipal authority to clean water purification systems in Riva Ligure, 70 miles southwest of Genoa. A 4-man team was working when the

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accident occurred, a 3rd worker was hospitalised after attempting a rescue in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere. 16th June 2009

Japan

Triple confined space fatality in ore ship

Initial speculation of Saturday's triple confined space fatal accident in the Hong Kong-registered Singapore Grace vessel at the Nikko Seiren refinery in Oita suggests that the oxidisation of copper concentrates led to an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. The 3 victims were employees of a subsidiary of the refinery working in the ore carrier vessel. 14th June 2009

Scotland

Workers overcome by hydrogen sulphide

Sacone Environmental Ltd of Brechin has been fined £12,000 after pleading guilty to breaching S.3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 in connection with an incident in July 2007 in which 2 workers were rendered unconscious as they delivered animal waste from the neighbouring abattoir to a waste pit in preparation for incineration. The waste intake area had no gas monitors or alarms installed and its enclosed nature meant there was little exchange of air, effectively making it a confined space. 26th June 2009.

Canada

Worker killed in Toronto bank lift shaft fall

An elevator technician died yesterday in a 10-storey fall in a lift shaft at the Toronto Dominion Centre in Toronto, a number of passengers were stranded in a stalled lift at the 35-storey building, it remains unclear if he was assisting with their rescue or engaged in a separate task. 25th June 2009.

Germany

Rough sleeper's rude awakening in bin wagon

A 31-year old male was fortunate in the extreme to escape death in the compacter unit of a refuse lorry after falling asleep in a large refuse bin whose contents were decanted into the wagon in Paderborn. Upon spotting blood on the jaws of the compacter mechanism, one of the refuse collectors paused the compacting cycle, rescuers took 45 minutes to free the victim who sustained multiple injuries to his legs and upper torso. 28th June 2009

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July 2009

Thailand

Schoolboy drowns accessing unsecured pool pumping system

An investigation is underway in Pattaya into the death of a 14-year old English schoolboy, a pupil at an international school, who drowned in an accident at the Pattaya Water Park. His body was found in the pump room of the pool, it is believed that he had been swimming on the bottom of the 1-metre deep pool and removed an unlocked grating vent and was subsequently drawn into the pumping system. 14th July 2009.

The Netherlands

Worker dies following confined space accident

A worker died yesterday in hospital 2 days after falling into a waste tank at a company in Everdingen, 3 men were working at the time of the accident and were overcome by the atmosphere. The 2 other workers in hospital are now listed out of danger, fire crews had to cut into the tank to complete the rescue. 13th July 2009.

USA

New Jersey worker killed in confectionery vat

A 29-year old worker at the Lyons & Sons confectionery plant in Camden, New Jersey, has died after losing his balance on a platform and falling into a 2.5m deep mixture, striking his head against a mixer arm in the fall. 10th July 2009

England

Textile mill worker's crush death in baler ruled accidental

A Bradford jury has returned a verdict of accidental death in the case of a textile worker who was crushed inside a baler at Westwood Yarns. He was cleaning the inside of the baler which compresses wool when the machinery activated. He had used a ladder to access the baler, upon which a sensor activated the baler. A circuit breaker switch which would have prevented the activation was found to be broken. Yorkshire police interviewed a colleague who had allegedly given the worker cursory instruction on the task and manslaughter charges were being considered but were not proceeded with. 9th July 2009

England

Worker overcome by gases

It is reported that a worker died last month following an incident on a farm near Blandford, Dorset. He was working at a farm's anaerobic digester when he was overcome, a colleague was also affected but made a recovery. 8th July 2009.

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USA

Fatal accident at Los Angeles recyclers

A warehouse worker was killed on Monday morning in an accident involving a cardboard recycling shredding machine at premises in Lincoln Heights, Los Angeles, details of the accident were yet to emerge. 14th July 2009

England

Refuse collection vehicle death

A man has died after being crushed by a compaction unit in a refuse collection vehicle in Brighton. There has been speculation that the man, in his 30's, entered a bin at flatted residential or commercial property and was discovered at a waste recycling facility in Newhaven. 15th July 2009

USA

Worker dies in sulphur exposure

A worker's body was found by colleagues in a rail wagon on the outskirts of Beaumont, Texas, on Thursday, the local fire department attending the incident indicated a presence of sulphur in the wagon and that it was probably an industrial accident. 24th July 2009

England

Slurry pit death

A boy aged 8 has died after he was found in a farm slurry pit. He was taken from the farm near Brosely, Shropshire, to hospital where he could not be revived. 27th July 2009.

England

Cheshire workers died in confined space

Two employees of Bodycote HIP of Macclesfield, its Works Manager and Maintenance Engineer, died in a July 2004 incident after they entered a concrete-lined pit into which argon gas had leaked from a large pressure vessel. The pit's oxygen alarm system was switched off and the ventilation system was not running. Investigation found that the company failed to undertake a proper risk assessment for entry into the confined space. Although they had implemented a safe system of work and permit to work procedure, they had not properly trained the employees in their use, or ensured that these systems and procedures were being followed through their auditing procedure. Bodycote HIP Ltd of Macclesfield, Cheshire, pleaded guilty at Worcester Crown Court and was fined £533,000 and ordered to pay costs of £200,000. 27th July 2009

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Romania

Double confined space fatality at waste processing plant

A confined space accident has killed 2 workers at the SC Protan Dej animal waste processing facility in northwest Romania, a 3rd worker is hospitalised in Cluj-Napoca. A worker had entered a process area to replace a chain in machinery and was overcome by ammonia gas used in the production process. The 2nd fatality involved a colleague attempting the latter's rescue. None of the workers was attired in suitable gear with breathing equipment. 31st July 2009

Austria

Confined space accident leaves 2 workers in critical condition

Two sanitary workers were listed in critical condition in hospital in Innsbruck last night after being overcome by gases while working on a waste pipeline at a pumping station in the Tux alpine resort, Tyrol. The first worker was overcome quickly and fell into a water-filled chamber 7 metres deep. His colleague was similarly overcome in attempting a rescue. Both men were rescued unconscious from the chamber by colleagues and transferred to hospital. 30th July 2009.

Canada

Farmer dies in fall from ladder in grain bin

A 26-year old Saskatchewan agricultural worker has died in a fall from a ladder inside a grain bin at a remote rural location 60 miles northwest of Moose Jaw where a number of workers were engaged in clearing grain from the internal walls of the bin. It is not known if he died from injuries in the fall or from suffocation in the residual grain. 29th July 2009.

August 2009

Indonesia

Quadruple fatality in sugar works machine accident

Machinery was unwittingly activated during cleaning work at PT Dharmapala Usaha Sikses sugar works in Cilacap, central Java, which caused 4 fatalities to workers who were removing residual sugar from a process cylinder when the turbine activated. 4th August 2009.

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Spain

Investigation of northeast Madrid lift shaft death

Technical investigation of a lift is underway at a residential building in the Hortaleza district of Madrid where a 54-year old man's body was recovered from the bottom of the lift shaft. The lift was found stopped between 2 floors, initial speculation suggests that the victim had attempted to jump down 7 metres from the suspended lift to the lift opening on the lower floor. 4th August 2009

England

Lift shaft death at flats

A 50-year old visitor to Redbridge Council's flats in Woodford Green has died in an incident involving the lifts there. One account states she became trapped between the lift carriage and the door on the 8th floor. 11th August 2009

South Africa

Machine fatality at KZN tanning factory

A 38-year old factory worker has died after becoming trapped in a leather dyeing machine at a works in Edenvale, Pietermaritzburg. He had moved inside the machine to remove newly dyed leather when it reactivated, colleagues deactivated it and began to strip it down to effect his release but he succumbed to the severity of his injuries. 17th August 2009.

September 2009

USA

Indiana worker killed in wood chipper

A 37-year old grounds maintenance worker has died after being drawn into wood chipping machinery in Atwood, north Indiana. A colleague made the grim discovery of the body in the rear of the machinery. 3rd September 2009

USA

Rodent pellets exploded in contact with water

A Texas grain silo worker was hospitalised after being showered in rodent poison when a number of 2cm diameter rodent pellets exploded in contact with water, releasing vapour as he was positioning them at the silo in Progreso, southeast Texas. 9th September 2009.

China

6 workers killed in Hong Kong lift shaft fall

A work platform failed in a lift shaft in the International Commerce Centre in Tsim Sha Tsiu in the Kowloon district of Hong Kong on Sunday, 6 workers died in a fall from the

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30th to the 10th storey of the 118-storey building being developed by Sun Hung Kei.
14th September 2009

England

Worker injured at Newmarket stables

HSE has been conducting preliminary inquiries into an accident at Craven House Stables, Newmarket, this week where a worker fell 6 metres into an excavation for a manure pit, fire crews deployed a crane to control the lift of the stretcher from the excavation. 25th September 2009.

England

Accident victim was crushed in industrial washer

In October 2007, an employee of a laundry company, who entered the protective cage of a hoist within a laundry machine to free a blockage, was crushed when the heavy steel hopper descended on him, inflicting serious multiple injuries. Employer OCS Group UK Limited of Sanderstead in Surrey was fined £80,000 with costs of £33,059. HSE investigation found OCS did not have a sufficiently effective system for ensuring the machinery was safe and there were no checks on the machinery after its repair at its Balham site. The engineering team had not been provided with a manual showing how to raise the hopper safely for someone to work beneath it. 29th September 2009

Gaza

Contraband tunnel collapse on Egyptian border

A tunnel collapse under the border wall between Gaza and Egypt killed a Palestinian and injured 2 others on Sunday, a number of such excavations used by smugglers are regarded as highly unsafe and have led to numerous accidents. 28th September 2009.

October 2009

England

Accidental death of man crushed in refuse vehicle

An inquest into the death of a 54-year old man found at Biffa's waste site in Colwick, Nottinghamshire, in May has determined he died accidentally after falling asleep in a large commercial wheelie bin. The deceased was a rough sleeper and frequented bins for food and shelter, collection staff had no instructions to inspect bins before decanting contents into the vehicle. 9th October 2009.

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Japan

Triple fatality in silo confined space accident

Three people have died and a 7-year old boy remains unconscious in a coma following an accident at a silo storing livestock feed in Gokase. It is speculated that the boy had fallen into the 4-metre high, 1.2-metre wide silo and the others succumbed to the atmosphere in the attempt to rescue him. 2nd October 2009.

Russia

Worker killed in pumping station explosion

A methane gas explosion on Wednesday in a sewage pumping station at the Khimvolokno-Amtel-Kuzbass chemical plant in Kemerovo killed 1 worker and injured another, the force of the blast causing the roof to collapse. 8th October 2009.

China

26 dead at tin ore mine as elevator brakes fail

Two elevators experienced brake failure at the Shanxing Antimony Industry Company Ltd's tin ore mine in Lengshuijiang City, Hunan, a total of 26 miners died at the scene or later from injuries. 9th October 2009.

Spain

Fatal accident at paper recycling facility

A worker died on Wednesday in an accident at the Ecovidal paper recycling facility on avenida de la Constitucion, Torrejon de Ardoz, northeast Madrid. It appears that he entered machinery which had jammed to clear a blockage, but it reactivated with him inside, inflicting fatal internal injuries. 15th October 2009.

Scotland

Young worker injures foot in chipper

It is reported that a 17-year old worker had a foot seriously injured on Monday while attempting to clear a blockage in a wood chipper in a forest outside Tomatin, Invernesshire. The report states he was employed by Fasach Woodlands Limited, it is not known if his foot can be saved. 23rd October 2009.

Gaza

Fatal accident at contraband tunnel

A rope supporting a number of people in a contraband tunnel in Rafah snapped, leading to 1 fatality and a number of critical injuries, 1 has a broken neck, another a fractured back and skull, and another is listed in a coma in hospital. The accident occurred near the mouth of the tunnel, causing them to fall back into it. 21st October 2009.

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Singapore

Residual gas ignites during manhole work

Six workers of Ohin Construction have been injured, 2 of whom are being treated in intensive care, following a gas explosion in a manhole chamber at the junction of McPherson and Aljimid Road in Singapore. The company has been contracted to seal sewage pipes in the manholes across the city, it appears that flammable residual gases were ignited by a live flame, the Ministry of Manpower has issued a stop work order on the project. 22nd October 2009.

Canada

Builders fined over pumping station accident

At Ontario Court of Justice in Burlington a fine of \$105K (£60,270) was levied against Kingdom Construction over an accident in April 2008 in which a worker died in a fall through a gap in a wall at a sewage pumping station in Halton Hills. A chamber, which collected sewage prior to pumping to a treatment centre, featured a wet wall on top of which were 2 apertures. When not in use, one was covered with wood. Investigation of the accident established that the timber was unsecured and unmarked to indicate it covered an opening. The company pleaded guilty to breaching Occupation Health and Safety Regulation 213/91, Section 26.3(2)(2) in failing to ensure that a protective cover over an opening on a work surface was securely fastened and adequately identified as covering an opening on a work surface. 28th October 2009.

USA

Farm worker drowns in manure pit

A 31-year old Mexican worker has drowned in a 2-metre deep manure pit at Steven Weinzirl farm in Eau Galle, west Wisconsin, where he lost control of a skid steer vehicle which overturned into the pit as he was pushing manure in. 28th October 2009

India

3 dead as lift fails at power station chimney

A cable failed on a lift carrying 3 workers up to the top of chimney No1 at a private power station in Sriracha, Mundra, yesterday, 2 of them died instantly, the third succumbed to his injuries in hospital. 29th October 2009.

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November 2009

Greece

Boy drowns in rain cistern

A 2-year old boy has drowned after falling into a concrete cistern tank which collects rainwater at premises in Koutsopodi, Peloponnese. 4th November 2009.

USA

Confined space accident at Tampa dry dock

In a confined space incident during cleaning work at Riverhawk Marine in the dry dock on West Tyson Avenue, Port Tampa, 2 workers required hospital treatment after inhaling fumes inside the hold of a ship. 10th November 2009.

Australia

Melbourne laundry fined over fatal accident

Hajel Pty Ltd and a director have been fined \$750K (£420,974) and \$65K (£36,484) respectively over a fatal accident on October 27th 2006 at its industrial laundry in West Heidelberg, Melbourne. A worker's mittened hand caught in an industrial ironing machine during cleaning work, leading to his death by crushing, the company pleaded guilty to failing to provide a safe workplace and both supervision and training for employees. Investigation established that the steam-heated rollers were inadequately guarded. 12th November 2009.

Gaza

Electrocution and injuries in tunnel accidents

In 2 separate accidents on Monday in tunnels close to the Egyptian border a man was electrocuted in an accident 20 metres underground; in a tunnel in Rafah 4 people were injured in a partial cave-in. 17th November 2009.

Singapore

Burnt rope failed worker's security in lift shaft fall

A lift company owner and a foreman were each fined \$50K (£21,586) in court in respect of a fatal accident on August 7th 2007 at the old Ocean Building where a worker fell 13 storeys to his death down a lift shaft. The worker had been dismantling the lift's guard rails for lowering by pulley but fell from the lift carriage when a rope securing him failed. The rope had previously been damaged by fire, the foreman had allegedly tied the burnt ends together. The lift company owner was fined for failing to stop the work when no barriers were present and 2 lifelines were missing. 19th November 2009

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England

Man dies in refuse crusher

A 31-year old man, who it is believed fell asleep in a refuse bin, has been found dead when the vehicle tipped its contents at a site at Ardwick, Greater Manchester, on Wednesday. 27th November 2009.

December 2009

England

Colliery fatality in Yorkshire

Two men were injured in an incident at Maltby Colliery in Rotherham on Monday evening, one of them fatally. The 52-year old man died at the scene after reportedly falling down a shaft. 9th December 2009

New Zealand

North Island worker killed in pulp machine

A worker died after being drawn through a roller machine at the Carter Holt Harvey Tasman plant in Kawerau, Bay of Plenty, he was conscious and still able to communicate with colleagues after becoming trapped in the No 2 pulp machine but died later of his injuries. 8th December 2009.

England

Labourer drowned at Brent site

At Westminster Magistrates' Court building contractor Chris Byrne was fined £750 plus £750 costs following the drowning of a 21-year old labourer at a house extension site in Charterhouse Avenue, Wembley. On 30th June 2006, the labourer, who had a limited knowledge of english, had been directed to fill earth into areas around concrete blocks adjacent to the extension and was shown by the contractor that a board covered a 1.74-metre deep excavation pit. The board was not replaced and later the labourer was found to have drowned in the pit. The contractor pleaded guilty to breaching reg.5(2) of the Construction (Health, Safety & Welfare Regs) 1996. An HSE inspector commented: "The labourer had little experience and was left alone with an excavation pit that wasn't properly guarded. His death was clearly avoidable as the risks of excavations and falling from height is well known. Those running construction sites, whether they are domestic or commercial jobs, have a duty of care to supervise vulnerable workers on their sites." 18th December 2009

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USA

Worker drowns in manhole at Denver Airport

A worker drowned in a fall into a 14-metre deep manhole at Denver International Airport on Saturday, divers recovered his body from the 7-metres of water in the well used for air conditioning. The 3m x 1.5m manhole does not feature emergency access ladders, it remains unclear what activity the worker was undertaking at the time of the accident. 21st December 2009.

India

Shipyard worker burned to death

A shipyard worker was burned to death on Wednesday when sparks during grinding work ignited a fire in the tank of a ship at Tebme Ship Builders in Malpe, 2 colleagues managed to escape to safety from the tank. 24th December 2009.

January 2010

China

15 workers killed by gas in separate incidents

Eight maintenance workers have died in an apparent confined space accident while performing electrical repair work in a 1.5-metre deep underground pump station in the No 1 steel plant of the Dalian Special Steel Company in Dalian. The bodies showed no indication of electrocution but had apparently lost consciousness in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. A gas leak appears to have killed 7 workers assembling a furnace in the Hebei Puyang Iron and Steel works where Nanjing Sanye was the utility installation company. 6th January 2010

Spain

Man found dead in clothes receptacle

A 24-year old Slovenian national was found dead on Wednesday in clothes recycling container at the junction of Dolores Marques and Vicente Zaragoza in Valencia. The container's opening and closing mechanism operated in a manner which prevented him getting out. 21st January 2010.

Scotland

Worker's tank fall

An investigation of an accident in which a hospital painter fell several metres from a ladder while painting within a tank in the grounds of a Renfrewshire hospital is underway. Last week's incident took place at the Royal Alexandria Hospital in Paisley where he was treated for a head injury. 27th January 2010.

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Malaysia

Welder killed in gas tank explosion

A gas tank exploded during hot metal work at Felda's Chalk Palm Oil Mill in Setiu, Terengganu, on Monday, killing 1 worker who fell into the tank and injuring 2 others. The tank is located 13 metres above ground and some 600 metres from the plant entrance. 26th January 2010

February 2010

England

Notts company fined over dust explosion

At Derby Crown Court Chromalloy UK Ltd was fined £50K plus £13,200 costs after pleading guilty last year at North East Derbyshire and Dales Magistrates' Court to 3 breaches of the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR) in which a dust explosion left a worker injured at its premises on Alfreton's Clover Nook Industrial Estate. On October 17th 2007, a dust explosion occurred upon the introduction of aluminium powder into a blender, inflicting burns to the hands, arm and face of a 54-year old worker. HSE investigation found that the explosion was caused by the ignition of the aluminium powder, probably by a discharge of static electricity. An original hose with a metal strip had been replaced by a plastic hose without this strip. An inspector observed that the company had failed to carry out duties under DSEAR such as risk assessment and to implement controls in relation to an explosive dust such as powdered aluminium. 12th February 2010

Japan

Stowaway died in landing gear of New York-Tokyo flight

The body of a stowaway was recovered from inside the door of the landing gear storage compartment of a Delta Airlines aircraft at Tokyo's Narita International Airport on Monday where it landed after a flight from New York, the victim had presumably died from hypothermia with in-flight locus temperatures falling to -60°C. 9th February 2010

March 2010

England

Man's bin death an accident

A Brighton and Hove inquest into the death of a 35-year old man, who climbed into a commercial refuse collection bin and fell asleep and was crushed to death later, has determined accidental death. In July 2009 his body was found at a waste transfer

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station, the death has resulted in a review of industry guidelines concerning commercial bins. 11th March 2010

England

Famous racing driver in lift accident

In a press release on behalf of Sir Stirling Moss it was reported that the 80-year old former racing driver had sustained broken ankles and foot bones as well as chipped vertebrae in a fall down a lift shaft at his Mayfair home. In a malfunction of the lift the external door had opened without the lift being at the landing, causing the famous sportsman to fall down 3 storeys into the open shaft. Following surgery he is now said to be recovering from the accident. 9th March 2010.

USA

Manhole accident in San Antonio

A construction worker was hospitalised in San Antonio on Tuesday with a broken ankle after falling 7 metres down a 1-metre diameter manhole at a road site in Shavano Park, north San Antonio. 10th March 2010.

France

2 sappers killed in flammable liquid accident

Two soldiers died and 2 others were injured in a fire at the Illkirch-Graffenstaden sappers' base on the outskirts of Strasbourg, the accident occurred during the handling of petrol in an underground chamber. 12th March 2010.

Bulgaria

Worker fell into empty lift shaft

A 36-year old construction worker was admitted to Pirogov Hospital with severe injuries at the weekend after falling into an empty elevator shaft in a building in Sofia. 15th March 2010

USA

Worker falls off unstable manhole ladder

A University of Utah employee was injured in an accident on Tuesday when he fell into a 5-metre deep manhole while undertaking fibre optics work underground. A ladder he was ascending became unstable as he was about to emerge from the manhole. Rescue teams used a tripod pulley system to lift him from the narrow confines of the utility chamber. 17th March 2010.

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Malaysia

6 die in confined space accident at water plant

Six workers died from carbon monoxide poisoning while cleaning a tank at a water treatment plant in Sabah. Two workers were initially engaged in the task but their failure to reappear prompted 4 colleagues to enter and attempt a rescue in the tank where a generator was producing a CO-rich atmosphere. 24th March 2010

USA

Utility worker injured during outage maintenance

A Pennsylvania Power & Light employee has been hospitalised with burns following an explosion and fire during maintenance work to restore supply during an outage in Wilkes-Barre, he managed to emerge from the chamber unaided, a colleague at the locus was uninjured. 30th March 2010.

April 2010

Turkey

Missing schoolboy found dead in sewer

The body of the 10-year old schoolboy missing from a boarding school (see story 31st March) has been found drowned in a sewer near the school in Usak. There have been allegations that the sewer was subject only to a cursory search and resealed early in the investigation and that the school security cameras were not operating. 2nd April 2010

New Zealand

Worker killed during glass unloading

The Department of Labour is investigating a fatal accident which occurred on Tuesday at Sharpeye glass products on the Wairau Valley industrial zone, north Auckland, where falling glass killed a worker during unloading. He was inside a container when the glass fell, 4 other workers were injured in attempting his rescue. 7th April 2010

Singapore

Record shipyard fine over confined space accident

A record fine of \$150K (£70,432) for a shipyard accident has been levied against Prime Marine for a failure to ensure the safety of workers under the Workplace Safety & Health Act in respect of a fatal accident on December 15th 2007 in which 2 workers died in a confined space accident. Workers were required to enter a ship's tank to clean it at Western Anchorage. A supervisor sent 3 workers in, having failed to wait for clearance from a chief officer over fears of high concentrations of hydrogen sulphide. The supervisor, who failed to ensure that the workers had gas detection equipment and

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breathing apparatus, was fined \$50K (£23,477) for committing a reckless act. 8th April 2010.

Gaza

Man killed in contraband tunnel collapse

A man has died in a tunnel collapse under the Yebna refugee camp near the Salah Al-Deen Gate in Rafah, 6 other people are believed to have survived by making for the Egyptian side of the excavation. 8th April 2010.

Switzerland

Worker killed in press at waste facility

On Thursday a worker at a recycle and waste disposal facility on Grundholz Street in Hefenhofen, Amriswil, was killed in an accident involving an industrial press. 2nd April 2010

China

6 feared drowned in manganese mine pond accident

A rapid issue of manganese mining residue from a retaining pond at Fengyun Manganese Company Ltd in Huayuan County, Hunan, has killed 1 worker and left 5 others missing, in all 35 workers were engaged in decommissioning the pond when the accident occurred. 12th April 2010.

India

Girl,6, dies in lift accident

On Sunday a 6-year old girl died of multiple fractures in a lift accident in a building in Dharavi, Mumbai (Bombay), after becoming trapped between the door and gate of the lift which descended from the 5th floor to the ground floor and then re-ascended with her body still trapped. 19th April 2010.

Germany

Woman's body found in paper compacter

The body of a woman aged around 60 was discovered by staff in a waste paper compaction unit in Lohne, Lower Saxony. The body was in a sleeping bag and initial investigation suggests she was alive prior to a paper container being decanted into the compacter and that she was living as a rough sleeper. 16th April 2010

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India

Worker falls into power plant boiler

One worker died and another was seriously injured yesterday in a fall into a coal-fired boiler at Plant B of Bokaro Thermal Power in Jharkhand. 21st April 2010

China

Worker crushed in Hong Kong lift accident

A worker was crushed to death after falling from a lift under repair and being crushed between the lift cage and shaft wall at Hui Ming Court in Kwun Tong, Hong Kong. He and a colleague were conducting maintenance on the lift between floors 4 and 5 of the building currently undergoing refurbishment, but the introduction of a trolley into the lift caused instability and led to the worker losing his balance and falling. 21st April 2010.

Turkey

Girl killed in fall into septic tank

An 8-year old girl has drowned in a septic tank in Antalya when she stumbled and fell into the tank whose lid had allegedly been removed and not replaced after the application of pesticide. It took an hour to drain the tank and recover her body. 23rd April 2010

Canada

Municipal worker dies in fall at water plant

Quebec's Workplace Health and Safety is investigating a fatal accident involving a Montreal municipal employee who has died in a 12-metre fall into an empty underground tank at a water filtration plant in Pierrefonds. It is believed that he was stepping backwards and was unaware of an open trap door. 23rd April 2010

England

Worker's horrific augur injury

In January last year a farming company employee lost his toe and part of his foot when he fell and trapped both feet in a manure augur. The equipment proved to be inadequately guarded and the employer, CK Hanson & Son Ltd of, Tong, Bradford, admitted breaching r.11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and was fined £2,000 with £1,395 costs. 27th April 2010.

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Pakistan

Karachi sewerage workers die in confined space accident

A confined space accident has claimed the lives of 3 workers of Karachi Water and Sewerage Board who died in a manhole during cleaning with automated equipment. The 3 who died had entered the manhole in an attempt to rescue a stricken colleague, the latter survived the accident and is receiving ongoing hospital treatment. 26th April 2010

Sweet company fined over crush accident

At Bournemouth Crown Court Tangerine Confectionery was fined £300K plus £72,901 in costs over the death of a worker crushed in machinery at its plant in Branksome, Dorset. A blockage had occurred in a 2-metre high jelly bean machine and a worker had climbed over the top and was attempting to clear the blockage but became trapped when the machine reactivated. In attempting to help, a colleague inadvertently pressed the wrong switch. Although the machine displayed a warning notice, HSE investigation found that there was no safe system for dealing with blockages and no written risk assessment. The machine was neither switched off nor isolated. 28th April 2010

USA

Colorado worker rescued from manhole

At the junction of 8th Avenue and Logan Street, Denver, fire crews were called to rescue an employee of FibreNet who had fallen from a ladder and was trapped in a manhole during subcontract work for Quest Communications. A tripod was set up over the manhole to winch the injured worker up. The extent of his back injuries was unknown. 28th April 2010

May 2010

Pakistan

Overloaded lift fails at Lahore paper works

An elevator collapsed during unloading of material at a paper factory in Shafiqabad, Lahore, killing a 32-year old worker and injuring 3 others. The lift was at the 2nd floor when the accident, attributed to overloading, occurred. 4th May 2010

New Zealand

Confined space accident in ship's hold

Two crew members, the chief officer and a seaman, have died in a confined space accident in the hold of the Trans Pacific Containers ship, Wellington, which was berthed at Marsden Point, Northland. The Korean chief officer of the Panamanian-flagged ship

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had entered the hold, possibly to check the timber cargo, believing that the fumigant aluminium phosphide had not been added. The Burmese seaman and a Korean 1st engineer attempted his rescue, the former died, the latter is recovering in hospital. Other crew members later used breathing apparatus to access the hold. 5th May 2010

USA

Municipal worker dies in confined space accident

A municipal maintenance worker died in a confined space accident in a 10-metre deep sewer manhole in Yankee Road, Middletown, Ohio. Three firemen believed they were responding to a fall from height incident and approached the locus without breathing apparatus, all required hospital treatment, 1 having become unconscious in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere, estimated at less than 2%. Initial testing pointed to a nitrogen-rich atmosphere. 10th May 2010.

England

Accidental death of worker who entered machine

A technician employed at the Contico Europe premises in Redruth, Cornwall, died accidentally in an industrial accident, a Truro inquest jury has determined. The deceased entered the plastic moulding machine to resolve a problem while working there in May 2008. 17th May 2010.

England

Man injured in welding explosion

It is reported that a worker has been treated for burns after being injured in an explosion at the premises of Widnes Tank Container Services Ltd in the Cheshire town. The incident occurred on Thursday afternoon, it is believed his injuries are not serious. 17th May 2010

England

Health club and lift company fined

At Southwark Crown Court, London, Holmes Place Health Clubs and ThyssenKrup were each fined £233K after pleading guilty to breaches of health and safety legislation in respect of an accident in March 2003 in which a 32-year old woman died in a malfunctioning lift at Broadgate Health Club, London. She was dragged several feet between the lift and shaft wall when it dropped and stopped between floors. The lift had malfunctioned over a number of months, the judge was critical of a "culture of complacency." 17th May 2010.

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Sweden

Lift accident kills 2 miners

At least 2 people are feared dead when a lift fell down a shaft on Tuesday at the LKAB (Luosavaara-Kiirunavaara Aktiebolag) Vitaforsgruvan coal mine in Malmberget. 19th May 2010

England

Improvised rescue from Surrey manhole

Chobham and Woking fire crews deployed an A-frame and harness to rescue an unconscious worker who had fallen 5 metres down a manhole from which he was emerging in Chestnut Lane, Chobham. The narrowness of the manhole precluded a Stokes Basket rescue, a paramedic supported the worker's back as he was winched up. 27th May 2010

Austria

Farmer injured in silo fall

A 47-year old farmer was badly injured in a 7-metre fall on to a concrete surface in a feed silo in Freistadt, Upper Austria. 27th May 2010.

June 2010

England

Accidental death of boy at farm

An inquest jury has determined accidental death having considered evidence given concerning the death of a 7-year old boy who drowned in a slurry pit at a farm near Broseley, Shropshire, on 26th July last year. 10th June 2010

England

Petrol vapour explodes in sewer

Two persons were injured when petrol vapour drained into the sewer system from a vehicle being worked on and exploded in Edward Street, Preston, last Thursday evening. One of the men involved has serious burns, the force of the explosion blew a manhole off and damaged nearby houses internally. 21st June 2010.

USA

Mechanic killed in aircraft wheel gear housing

A Delta aircraft mechanic died from severe head injuries in an accident at Gate G14 of Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport, he was found unconscious inside one of the gear doors which house the airliner's wheels. 17th June 2010.

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USA

Worker killed in Wisconsin grain bin

A worker has died in a fall into a grain silo in Zachow, Wisconsin, where he was scraping accumulations of corn from a side wall when a large amount fell and caused him to lose his balance. 18th June 2010

Australia

Falling water tank kills Queensland worker

A 3-metre x 8-metre water tank fell and killed a worker on Monday at Bundaberg Sandblasting in Queensland, colleagues had to deploy a forklift truck to lift it clear of the victim, the reason for it falling was unknown. 22nd June 2010

July 2010

Malta

Valetta worker falls down shaft

A workman was injured in a 1-storey fall into an open shaft at the Parish Hall, St Dominic Street, Valetta, on Tuesday afternoon, the cause of the accident and the extent of his injuries were unknown. 7th July 2010

USA

Farm workers died in fall into silo

Two teenage Michigan farm workers died when they fell into a molasses feed silo at a farm 4 miles southwest of Middleville, they were using a power-washer to clean the 4-metre high silo when the accident occurred. 14th July 2010

Malta

Man falls down lift shaft

A 30-year old British national was listed in critical condition with head injuries after a 3-storey fall yesterday down a shaft in an apartment block on il-Kurazza Street, Qawra. 20th July 2010

Scotland

Vessel gas incident lands workers in hospital

An incident on Saturday morning on board the vessel Oriela, berthed at Clipper Quay in Aberdeen harbour, resulted in 3 persons being admitted to hospital, two of them reportedly suffering the effects of exposure to hydrogen sulphide. 26th July 2010.

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USA

Missing worker fell into waste compactor

A worker who had been reported missing for 3 weeks is now believed to have died after falling into a waste compactor at One Niagara, New York state. A surveillance video appears to have captured the incident in which a maintenance worker fell into the self-contained compactor unsighted by colleagues. 27th July 2010

August 2010

India

Cleaner suffocates in manhole

A confined space accident has claimed the life of a worker and hospitalised a colleague who were subcontracted to clean a sewer line on the Ajay Industrial estate in the Dhudheshwar district of Ahmedabad whose municipal corporation may file a complaint of negligence against the private industrial estate. 3rd August 2010

Greece

Bin man crushed in wagon compactor

A refuse collector has died in a crush accident in Chania, Crete, when he entered the wagon's compactor to attempt to clear a blockage and the cover descended on his head, 2 colleagues were treated in hospital for shock. 5th August 2010

September 2010

India

2 killed in furnace explosion

A smelting furnace exploded at DV Alloys in Ghaziabad, killing 2 workers and injuring 8 others. It is speculated that a gas cylinder had been wrongly thrown in and exploded in the furnace, scrap metal from Canada and the Gulf area is imported for smelting. 8th September 2010

USA

Confined space accident claims worker and fireman

A double fatality occurred in a toxic atmosphere in a manhole in Tarrytown, New York, where a fireman succumbed to the oxygen-deficient atmosphere in the confined space while attempting the rescue of a Tarrytown Public Works Department employee who had entered the manhole to investigate a sewage blockage and was overcome by fumes. 8th September 2010

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Canada

Confined space incident in cider vats

Two Jamaican workers engaged in pump maintenance on a cider vat at Filsinger's Organic Foods and Orchards in Ayton, Ontario, died in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere in which they were overcome by gas. 15th September 2010

Italy

Capua maintenance workers deaths investigated

An investigation has been ongoing into the deaths of 3 maintenance workers in a possible confined space accident at the DSM factory in Capua where they died in one of the 2 fermentation units used to manufacture food ingredients and enzymes. 15th September 2010

USA

Ohio grain auger fatality

It is speculated that the 21-year old employee of Peavey Company who died in an accident in a grain bin in Morral, Ohio, may have caught his foot in the auger after it fell through a grating as he was sweeping grain into the auger. 20th September 2010

Austria

Vintner's head crushed in press

A vintner died yesterday when his head was crushed in a wine press in Langenlois, he apparently overbalanced and fell in during cleaning, fire crews had to use a hydraulic lift to recover his body. 23rd September 2010

USA

Unstable silage suffocates NY farmer

A New York state farmer has died of suffocation when a pile of silage became unstable as he loaded it into a feeder and he became buried under it at Fort Hill Farm in Seneca. Although a relative managed to pull him out he had already been suffocated under the feed. 30th September 2010

October 2010

England

Lift engineer died in accident

A lift engineer maintaining a lift in a residential block of flats in Redbridge Gardens Camberwell, London, lost his life in an accident. One report stated he died of head injuries at the bottom of the shaft when the carriage descended as he and a colleague

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worked on the morning of Wednesday 22nd September.
6th October 2010

The Netherlands

One dead, 2 injured in confined space accident

One worker has died and 2 others are listed in life-threatening condition after a confined space accident in which they were overcome by fumes as they attempted to clean a container at the Reiling green recycling plant in Sterksel, southeast of Eindhoven, the nature of the residue, possibly hydrogen sulphide, in the container was still unclear on Tuesday. 6th October 2010

England

Lift fall death

A worker in his 50's has died after falling 5 metres down a lift shaft at the Temple Chambers building in Sunderland. The accident occurred last Thursday. 12th October 2010

USA

Lift worker killed in Miami Beach

A Florida lift maintenance worker was killed in an accident on Monday at an Ocean Point tower block in Miami Beach, it is speculated that he lost his balance and fell behind the lift. 12th October 2010

USA

Oregon boy killed in potato harvester

A 2-year old boy died after being drawn into a belt-driven potato harvesting machine at a storage facility on Paterson Ferry Road in Irrigon, east Oregon. His father had been maintaining the equipment and the child approached too closely to the equipment as it was being tested. 8th October 2010

England

Accidental death of worker

A Greater Suffolk Coroner has returned a verdict of accidental death after the deliberations of an inquest jury who listened to the circumstances of the death in an industrial accident last year of an employee of HG Gladwell & Sons of Ipswich, manufacturers of pet food. The deceased died after his neck was trapped by a sliding door on a mixing machine as he leaned into the equipment to obtain an oil drum, it being speculated that he had inadvertently activated the door switch with his foot as he did so. 14th October 2010

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Germany

Woman critically injured in harvester

A woman was hospitalised with life-threatening injuries on Wednesday after becoming caught in the cutting mechanism of a combine harvester in a field in Hollingstedt, Dithmarschen. It is speculated that she wanted to speak to one of the workers and was approaching through the field unseen by the harvester operator at work. 21st October 2010

Northern Ireland

Worker left paraplegic after fall

During the course of the work last summer at a new waste water scheme in Bangor, Northern Ireland, a worker on the site fell into a 6.5-metre deep chamber, receiving severe injuries to his head and spine, leaving him in a complete paraplegic condition. Access areas in the roof of the chamber were not adequately covered. Construction company John Graham (Dromore) Limited was fined £80,000 plus £1,386 costs after pleading guilty to breaching safety legislation at Downpatrick Crown Court. 26th October 2010

Australia

Crush fatality at Sydney print firm

A worker died from blunt trauma head injuries after being crushed in a printing press at a printing works in Wetherill Park, west Sydney. 25th October 2010

England

Yorks farmer fined over harvester accident

A 45-year old farmer of Grange Farm in Sinnington, Yorkshire, was fined £10K plus £1,698 costs over an accident in which a 23-year old worker lost a leg while trying to clear a blockage in a harvesting machine at Skipsters Hagg Farm, Appleton-le-Moors. The farmer pleaded guilty to allowing the worker to enter a danger zone while cutting discs were spinning, such were the injuries medics had to amputate the worker's leg at the locus. 27th October 2010

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Canada

Unsecured BC worker fell down shaft

A construction worker who was not properly secured was injured in a 6-metre fall down a concrete ventilation shaft during the installation of grates over the shaft at the 26-storey Polygon Luma building on Arcola Street, Burnaby, British Columbia. The extent of his injuries was not known. 29th October 2010

Austria

Boy could have suffocated in silo

A 9-year old boy was rescued from a life-threatening situation in a grain silo in Pyrha, Lower Austria, where he and another child were playing hide-and-seek. He began to sink into the 3-metre deep grain in the silo and only the prompt intervention of adults saved his life. He was later admitted to hospital in St Polten. 29th October 2010

November 2010

Northern Ireland

Tank explodes

A workman is in stable condition in hospital following an industrial accident at premises in Portadown. One account states he was injured in an explosion as he cut into a tank yesterday morning. 5th November 2010

England

Worker overcome by Nitrogen

Black Country company Overton Recycling has been prosecuted following an incident at its Lye premises which rendered a worker unconscious through exposure to nitrogen. The worker climbed into the chute of a fridge recycling machine to clear a blockage but passed out and had to be rescued when he encountered the nitrogen gas used to reduce the risk of an explosion. The method adopted to clear blockages had not been risk assessed. The company admitted breaching r.3(1) of the Confined Spaces Regulations 1997 and r.3(1) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and was fined £13,000 with £6,107 costs. 9th November 2010

Austria

Man saved from refuse wagon compaction

A 26-year old man was hospitalised on Monday with a serious leg injury after almost being tipped into a refuse wagon compactor from a container during a collection round in Quadenstrasse, Donaustadt, Vienna. As the container was being raised for tipping into the compaction unit, the bin men heard a man's cries from the raised container and

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immediately pressed an emergency button to deactivate the system. 2nd November 2010

Russia

Youth survives flight in aircraft landing gear

A 17-year old youth survived a 50-minute flight in the landing gear of an An-24 aircraft on a domestic flight of Angara Airlines from Kirensk to Irkutsk, having sought refuge in a space above a wheel. He was later treated for hypothermia and frostbite. 3rd November 2010

England

Dust explosion severely burned welder

A workman was carrying out welding work on a large container holding 380 tonnes of the explosive powder Terephthalic acid at Indorama Polymers (Workington) Ltd's site in Siddick when a dust explosion occurred. The accident victim was engulfed by the resultant fireball, he and another worker jumped more than 3 metres to the ground to escape the heat but could not escape injury, suffering severe burns to his head, face, arms and hands. The worker explained: "I was told that it would be safe to carry out welding work on the vessel but it wasn't. You trust people to get it right and check things out for you but you can't take anything for granted. I just hope this case helps prevent the same thing happening to someone else." Indorama Polymers admitted a breach of S.3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £20,000 plus costs of £14,941. The explosion resulted from the escape of 15g of powder when a bung occupying a hole in the container fell out. 16th November 2010

USA

Confined space accident in farm trailer

A worker died and another was seriously injured after being exposed to methane gas while attempting to clear a blockage in a tank trailer at Schwab Dairy Farm in Freedom, New York county. 12th November 2010

The Netherlands

Cargo ship explosion off Den Helder

A seaman was airlifted from the Marshall Islands-flagged cargo ship Newlead Markela on Saturday with 2nd degree burns following an explosion and fire in one of the coal cargo holds on the ship which was 50 miles northwest of Den Helder en route to Swinoujscie, Poland. 15th November 2010

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Vietnam

3 die in confined space accident in hotel site tank

Three workers died and another was injured in a confined space accident in a basement water tank at the site of a new 8-storey hotel on Hiep Nhat Street, Ho Chi Minh City. Cement had dried and the workers entered the tank to remove formwork when they were overcome in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere at the site being built by Tien An Construction Company. 9th November 2010

England

Worker switched on equipment while colleague was inside it

A worker escaped with severe bruising to his legs when he was hit by the blades of a stirrer in a vegetable flow freezer at his employer's factory in Bourne, Lincolnshire. Investigation found that the inside of the freezer was dimly lit and it was very difficult to see someone through a mesh grille. Noise meant communication was a problem, and both men had worked on an overnight shift for more than 11 hours when the incident occurred. There was no safe system of isolation. PinguinLutosa Foods UK Ltd of Kings Lynn admitted breaching r.11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and r.3(1)(b) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and was fined a total of £4,700 with costs of £2,639. 18th November 2010

Northern Ireland

Piggery worker killed in feeder accident

A farm worker died in an accident involving a food container at a pig farm on Cortynan Road, County Armagh. 17th November 2010

Turkey

4 killed in lift shaft fall

Four workers of Seha Construction were killed yesterday in a fall into an open lift shaft during welding work on the 17th floor of a 25-storey building in Konya. Initial speculation is that cables on their work platform failed. 11th November 2010

China

Worker freed from sunken pipe

A worker was rescued after being trapped for 80 hours in a pipe section of an offshore rig near the Zhejiang coast. The 1-metre diameter steel pipe buckled under tidal pressure and sank in a depth of 18 metres of water. Food and water were delivered to the trapped worker through a tube before a concrete column was removed to raise the pipe and free the man. 22nd November 2010

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USA

Californian arborist killed in wood chipper

In Concord, California, an arborist has died in an accident while feeding trimmed branches into a wood chipper. It appears that a rope became entangled in the cuttings and drew him into the mouth of the machinery; he was discovered on the loading tray.
17th November 2010

China

Maintenance worker crushed in lift accident

A worker was killed in an accident in a lift after becoming trapped between the inner and outer doors of the lift in a building in Quarry Bay, Hong Kong. He had initially been working on top of the lift. 19th November 2010

Australia

Victoria timber mill fined over machinist's death

A Latrobe Valley magistrates' court has fined the Carter Holt Harvey timber mill \$120K (£73,990) over a fatal accident in which a female worker died trying to clear a blockage on a wood-stacking machine at the plant in Morwell. The accident went un-witnessed, it was believed that she was crushed by the machine hoist as she used a hammer to free the wood. The court heard that a report suggested flaws in the machine's design and that the company failed to identify safety issues with the machine.
24th November 2010

Australia

Spark may have ignited oil drum

A worker died in the Royal Perth hospital on Monday from injuries sustained in an accident when an oil drum exploded at Diamond Powder Coaters in Welshpool, Perth, the worker may have been working with grinding equipment at the time of the accident.
30th November 2010

December 2010

Canada

Manitoba company fined after teen worker buried under asphalt

The proprietor of Interlake Asphalt Paving has been fined \$33,500 (£20,975) over a fatal accident in which a 15-year old worker died when he was buried under asphalt at a site in Stony Mountain, 8 miles north of Winnipeg. The youth had been shovelling asphalt from a raised trailer box into a backhoe scoop when the rear gate failed and he lost his balance, falling under the accumulating asphalt. The employer pleaded guilty to failing

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to keep a safe workplace, employing an underage worker and failing to keep proper business records. 1st December 2010

India

5 killed in leaking tanker explosion

A site manager and 4 workers were killed in an explosion on Tuesday at the Euro Pratik steel facility in the Siltara industrial area of Raipur. A leaking oil tanker was undergoing maintenance when the explosion occurred. 1st December 2010

Canada

Water pressure tank explosion kills Labrador worker

A worker died on Monday morning when a water pressure tank on which he was working exploded at a Trans-Labrador Highway construction site in Forteau. 7th December 2010

USA

Collapsed Arkansas silo not inspected for 19 years

The grain silo collapse at Tyson Foods Inc in Nashville, Arkansas, which last week claimed the life of a 48-year old worker, was apparently a structure which had not been inspected by OSHA since 1991. The silo engaged around 30 workers, 10 fewer than the threshold for sites on a regular visit roster. 15th December 2010

USA

Landscaper drawn into wood chipper

A Californian landscape worker has died in an accident involving a wood chipper in Fallbrook, San Diego, where he slipped while feeding material into the machine and sustained major trauma injuries when he was pulled into it. 17th December 2010

Austria

10-m fall at Graz site

A construction worker is listed in critical condition in hospital after a 10-metre fall down a shaft from 2nd storey level to basement on a housing site on Scheidtenberggasse in the Geidorf district of Graz. 22nd December 2010

South Africa

Worker killed in butchery mincer

An investigation has been ongoing into the death of a worker in the butchery

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department of a store on West Street, Durban, where he slipped and died when his head became trapped in a mincer. 21st December 2010

China

5 killed in Gansu chemical plant accident

Five workers died and 2 others were injured in a confined space accident at the Xinchuan Chemical Plant in Jinchang, Gansu. The accident happened in a workshop, initial reports of an electrocution incident were later withdrawn when it appeared that a confined space accident had occurred, 2 workers initially entering a toxic environment, with others succumbing in an attempted rescue effort. 21st December 2010

India

Worker electrocuted in storm drain

A utilities maintenance worker has been electrocuted in a storm water drain into which he had just descended in Tardeo, south Mumbai(Bombay), to deactivate a submersible pump of which the wiring had not been adequately insulated. 22nd December 2010

England

Deadly maintenance

maintaining was activated by an employee. The 50-year old deceased employee sustained head injuries when struck by the bars that transfer cardboard through the cut and crease machine.

At an earlier hearing at Chesterfield Magistrates' Court, Glossop Carton and Print Ltd admitted breaching S.2(1) and 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and was fined £50,000 with £76,150 costs. 23rd December 2010

England

Worker dies in oven

A man in his 50's has died in an industrial accident at the Cheshire premises of Pyranha Mouldings. He was discovered in an oven at the canoe manufacturer's Runcorn site on Thursday, one report states he had been cleaning the oven. 25th December 2010

January 2011

USA

Worker killed in manhole confined space accident

A construction worker, believed to have been an employee of J Ramey Construction, died in a confined space accident in a manhole at Salem Lake in Winston-Salem, North

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Carolina, during maintenance work on valves. Some colleagues who were either working with him or attempting a rescue were also injured in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere. 10th January 2011

South Africa

Fatal accident at Limpopo platinum mine

Operations were suspended yesterday at Northam Platinum's Zondereinde mine in Limpopo Province pending investigation of a worker's death 1,480 metres underground in a tramping accident. 11th January 2011

Australia

Mill worker killed in timber machine

A 48-year old maintenance worker died in an accident at a timber mill in Oberon, New South Wales, where he was caught in machinery. 17th January 2011

Brazil

4 died in confined space accident at Sao Paulo nickel plant

Four workers have died and 3 others were injured in a confined space accident, succumbing to sulphuric and muriatic acid toxic fumes during the cleaning of tanks at a nickel-processing plant in Jardin Santo Amaro, Sao Paulo. 18th January 2011

Turkey

Miners' bodies recovered from deep well

A team of Chinese mining specialists have recovered the bodies of the last 2 Turkish miners missing since an explosion last May at the Karadon mine in Zonguldak. The bodies were in a 735-metre deep well filled with water. 19th January 2011

Australia

Worker's arm severed in auger

A worker's arm was severed at the elbow at the Mi-Feed stockfeed company in Yandina, Queensland, when it became caught in an auger which transfers grain between storage bins, it is speculated that he was attempting to clear a blockage when the accident occurred. 20th January 2011

USA

Pennsylvanian farmer killed in silo auger

A Pennsylvania farm worker has died in an accident after being caught in an auger at the bottom of a silo bin at premises on Warm Spring Road, Hamilton Township. 20th January 2011

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USA

Ethanol fumes confined space accident

A confined space accident involving ethanol fumes killed 1 worker and left 2 others seriously injured at Baxter Healthcare in Atwater Village, northeast Los Angeles, where blood plasma was being cleaned inside a container. The victim had alerted the emergency services prior to returning to the tank to assist his stricken colleagues, only to be fatally overcome by the fumes. 24th January 2011

England

Contractors failed to replace lift shaft guard rails

At Lewes Crown Court Brighton Construction Ltd pleaded guilty to breaches of health and safety legislation in respect of an accident 14 months ago in which a worker delivering kitchen units at the new Ocean Height apartment complex in Brighton fractured his spine and pelvis in a 10-metre fall into an open lift shaft.

Although guard-rails had been positioned around the open shaft, these had been removed by maintenance workers and had not been re-positioned after the maintenance work. Sentence was deferred until 3rd March. 25th January 2011

USA

Wisconsin farmer died in grain mixer

A 39-year old Wisconsin female farm worker died in an accident in Sterling where she apparently fell into a grain mixer, an accident which is now under investigation. 28th January 2011

February 2011

Spain

Man rescued from bin van compactor

A 43-year old Malaga man is listed in critical condition in Arnau de Vilanova hospital in Lleida with fractures to both legs and an arm after being rescued from the compaction unit of a bin van having been deposited there with the contents of a large waste bin in which he had been sleeping. The refuse collectors heard his shouts after the bin had been decanted during the round in Cardenal Cisneros Street and fire crews were called to extract him from the machinery. The victim had been in Lleida to attend a detoxification clinic. 1st February 2011

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USA

Painter survived 37-metre fall from water tower

A 21-year old painter of contractor Worldwide Industrial Corporation survived a 37-metre fall while working at the North Kaufman Water Supply tower in East Texas. He was listed in critical condition upon hospital admission but this later improved to fair. He was wearing a safety harness. 2nd February 2011

USA

Texas grain silo collapse

A 31-year old worker was crushed to death when a grain silo collapsed in Hereford, Texas, as he was unloading salt from a lorry. 4th February 2011

USA

Workers killed in fall down New York lift shaft

Two workers died in a 5-storey fall down a lift shaft at the construction site of a new community centre of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church on West 83rd Street, New York. They were working at 7th storey level without safety attachment when a beam gave way. 10th February 2011

USA

Worker's legs severed in auger

A 30-year old Californian worker died in an accident at the Setton Pistachio plant in Terra Bella, Fresno, shortly after his legs were severed in an auger. 14th February 2011

USA

Idaho worker crushed in hay baler

A 40-year old farm worker was crushed in a hay baler which he was trying to activate at a farm in Middleton, Idaho. It is believed that his clothing caught in the drive shaft as he was disconnecting leads to jump-start the machinery. 17th February 2011

USA

Timber worker's clothing snagged in auger

A timber worker at Eastern Wood Products in Old Lycoming, Pennsylvania, was killed after becoming drawn into an auger in which scrap wood was being ground down. He was apparently trying to clear a blockage when his clothing became snagged in the equipment. 17th February 2011

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USA

Worker's legs severed in compaction machine

A recycling contract worker of Triple P Farms was listed as being in stable condition in North Mississippi Medical Centre, Tupelo, following an accident at the MTD grounds in Verona, Mississippi, where his legs were severed when he lost his balance and fell into equipment for the compaction of timber and cardboard. He may have been attempting to clear a blockage. 21st February 2011

South Africa

Worker killed in concrete mixer

Two workers fell into a concrete mixer during cleaning work yesterday at a concrete plant in Vissershok, Cape Town. One worker died, the other was severely injured. The equipment activated suddenly as they worked, drawing them into the blade. 24th February 2011

Spain

Woman dies in fall into septic tank

A 54-year old woman died in a fall into an abandoned septic tank near a piggery in La Paca, Murcia. Her 23-year old son who also fell in was admitted to Rafael Mendez hospital in Lorca in critical condition. 28th February 2011

March 2011

USA

Californian worker killed in meat processor

An investigation is underway into a fatal accident on Monday morning at Valley Meat Company, Hanford, California, where a 72-year old worker died in a fall into meat-processing equipment. 1st March 2011

Australia

Missing cave diver's body located

The body of a missing 29-year old female cave diver has been located some 500 metres from the entrance to Tank Cave, a 5-mile long cave midway between Millicent and Mt Gambier in South Australia. Members of Cave Dive South Australia were preparing to dive to the locus with a view to producing a video route for police divers to subsequently undertake the recovery. The police would consider tunnelling from the surface if the 3-4 hour dive would prove too hazardous. The cave is described as "a complicated underground cavern." 1st March 2011

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England

Missing worker ruled crushed in recycling chamber

A jury at North London Coroners' Court returned a verdict of death by asphyxiation in respect of a fatal accident on January 31st 2003 at European Metal Recycling in Willesdon in which a worker died in an accident. His body was never found, it was believed that he became trapped and crushed in a 40-tonne fridge recycling chamber containing nitrogen gas and a crusher. 2nd March 2011

England

Worker fell down unguarded lift shaft

Brighton Construction Ltd of Brighton has been fined a total of £25,000, with costs of £15,000, after pleading guilty to breaching r.22(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 in connection with an industrial accident in which a 53-year old worker fell 6m down an unguarded lift shaft while delivering a kitchen unit to a block of flats in Roedean Road, Brighton, in November 2009. He fractured his spine. Brighton Construction, principal contractors for the project, had been advised by HSE 5 months before the incident that any openings in the floors were to be protected with guardrails. 8th March 2011

Spain

Madrid museum cleaner killed in lift accident

A 40-year old female cleaner was killed on Monday in an accident involving a lift which came down as she worked in the shaft at the Museo Nacional de Antropologia on Alfonso X11 Street in Madrid. The lift was new and had not malfunctioned, initial investigation spoke of an absence of a work assessment. 8th March 2011

New Zealand

Woman injured in fall from water tower

A 20-year old woman has been hospitalised in Waikato with back, neck and chest injuries following a 4-metre fall from a water tower at Springdale as she was back flushing the tank. 11th March 2011

South Africa

Cleaning worker crushed in cement mixer

An investigation is ongoing into the death of a 41-year old worker who was crushed in a large industrial cement mixer at Denken Concrete, the machinery was inadvertently activated by a colleague while the worker was in the act of cleaning the concrete pan mixer. 15th March 2011

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Spain

2 killed in confined space accident in Valencia

Two workers died on Monday in a confined space accident in AlcaldeReig Street in Valencia when they were overcome by fumes in a 2x2-metre pipe in a trench. 15th March 2011

Rep Ireland

Confined space accident in Cork

A confined space accident claimed the life of a 27-year old worker of Munster Drain Services on Wednesday afternoon during removal of sewage from a septic tank in Garryvoe, east Cork, a 32-year old colleague was hospitalised. 17th March 2011

Australia

Worker's ankle broken in auger

A Queensland worker broke his ankle yesterday after becoming trapped in the auger of concreting machinery at Sapar Landscaping Supplies in Raceview, his condition in hospital in Ipswich is stable. 23rd March 2011

Spain

Madrid worker killed in fall down lift shaft

A 42-year old worker died yesterday in a 12-metre fall down an open lift shaft at a building under construction on Fundidores Street in the Los Molinos barrio of Getafe, Madrid. This was the 3rd fatal accident in Getafe this year and the 2nd this month. Earlier in March a worker died in a 20-metre fall from a crane in the Los Olivos industrial zone; and in February a worker died in a fall into the hold of a scrap boat being dismantled. 30th March 2011

Singapore

Confined space nitrogen accident at refinery

A subcontract maintenance worker has died and a colleague is listed in critical condition following a confined space accident involving nitrogen at the Exxon Mobil refinery in Jurong during a shutdown for maintenance overhaul. 30th March 2011

April 2011

USA

Worker stuck overnight in meat machine

A Pennsylvania factory cleaner was stuck overnight in machinery he was cleaning at K & K Gourmet Meats Inc in Washington Street, Leetsdale, where his foot became trapped in a meat processor he was cleaning. His 8-hour ordeal ended when day shift

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workers appeared on Tuesday morning. Normally he works in a 2-man team but his colleague had called off from work on Monday. 6th April 2011

USA

Workers drowned as water tank bursts

At the former Georgia Pacific Plant in Lake Placid, New York, a 300K-gallon water tank owned by the United Fire Protection burst, flooding an adjacent concrete building where 2 workers conducting maintenance work on a pump were drowned. 11th April 2011

Canada

Toronto worker killed in pasta machine

A 26-year old worker died in a fall into a pasta production machine at Pasta Quistini Inc in west Toronto, initial speculation suggests his clothing snagged and drew him into the machine. 13th April 2011

Australia

Worker's arm severed

On Tuesday an industrial accident took place at Brindley Park Feedlot in Euthulla, Queensland, in which a worker's arm was amputated at the shoulder after becoming caught in a grain auger. 20th April 2011

India

3 killed in Gujarat confined space accident

The Ahmedabad Fire & Emergency Service recovered the bodies of 3 workers who died in a confined space accident in a chamber near the Usmanpura pumping station at the Sabarmati Riverfront Project. One of the victims was a contractor; he and 2 labourers had entered the 17-metre deep chamber, possibly to recover tools they had previously been using. 28th April 2011

May 2011

Sweden

Woman and dog recovered from farm slurry pit

A woman's body has been recovered from a slurry pit at a farm near Essunga, Vastergottland. The body of a dog was also discovered, police have speculated that she may have attempted to rescue the animal from the pit, from which it would have been very difficult to extricate oneself. 5th May 2011

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China

Confined space accident at Shenzhen subway site

Two construction workers died in a confined space accident on Sunday at the Daxin Station construction site in Shenzhen where the Shenzhen Water Project Engineering Company Ltd is involved in the subway extension site. Methane gas from sewage appears the likeliest cause of death, 4 other workers were also injured. 9th May 2011

Saudi Arabia

Worker crushed in cement mixer

Investigators are trying to establish the circumstances of a workplace accident in Madina where a 35-year old Asian construction worker was crushed in a fall into a large cement mixer. 17th May 2011

England

Company failed to manage tank inspections adequately

Solvent Resource Management Ltd of Maidenhead, Berkshire, has admitted breaching r.4 of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 in connection with an incident in March 2009 in which a tank collapsed and released 340 tonnes of hazardous and flammable solvent and contaminated waste water.

A steel tank which had been damaged by internal corrosion collapsed onto a retaining wall. The company had failed to put in place suitable and effective measures to manage its tank inspection programme according to contents and use, and was fined £150,000 plus costs of £20,000. 24th May 2011

USA

2 killed in Louisiana confined space accident

Two subcontract workers of Performance Contractors died in a confined space accident at the Shintech Louisiana plant, they had entered a container to fetch tools but the nature of the chemical fumes which overcame them was unclear. 24th May 2011

June 2011

USA

Michigan teenager killed in silo crush accident

An 18-year old Michigan farm worker has died in a crush accident in a grain silo on a dairy farm northwest of Gibson Township where he was scraping corn from the walls of the silo when instability occurred and he sank into the corn which failed to bear his weight. 1st June 2011

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USA

New York worker crushed in compactor

A worker died in a crush accident in a compactor on Saturday at the Krieger Recycling plant in Rochester, New York. He became trapped between rams which compress metal although the mechanism should not activate without someone inside an attached crane. 6th June 2011

Poland

Worker crushed in grain silo

A 43-year old worker has died in a crush accident in a grain silo in Biala Gora in northern Poland, becoming trapped under 100 tonnes of grain. The precise circumstances of the accident remain unclear. 15th June 2011

Ghana

Worker killed in soap mixing machine

A 21-year old worker died in an accident at Delta Agro Ltd in the Tema Industrial Area where he became caught in the rollers of a soap mixing machine. Initially his hand was severed but he sustained multiple injuries upon being drawn in. Initial speculation of the accident was that he may have been adding chemicals to the mixer by hand while the machine was in active mode. 13th June 2011

USA

Wisconsin man killed in silo auger accident

A 49-year old Wisconsin agricultural worker has died from injuries sustained in a silo at Philip Majerus Dairy Barn in Eden where he lost his balance while cleaning grain residue deposit and fell on to an auger which drew his legs in. Augers operate without safety cut-off switches and are deactivated manually, rescuers used Jaws of Life to extricate the worker who died later in hospital. 22nd June 2011

Shanghai lift engineer killed in fall down shaft

An engineer has died in a fall down a lift shaft at the 57-storey Exchange SOHO office building on Tongren Road in the Jing'an district of Shanghai where he had arrived to work on one of the building's 13 lifts. 29th June 2011

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July 2011

England

Grass cutter fell into drainage outlet

A worker was rescued by fire crews and hospitalised after falling 2 metres into a drainage outlet while cutting grass on an embankment in Tarraby, Carlisle. 5th July 2011

Scotland

Workers died in confined space accident

Scottish Sea Farms and Logan Inglis Limited of Cumbernauld have been fined in connection with the deaths of 2 workers in an industrial accident on a barge moored at a salmon farm on Loch Creran, Argyll & Bute, during May 2009. The men were fixing a hydraulic crane on the barge and went below deck to find cabling and pipework where the oxygen levels were very low. One man passed out, his colleague managed to climb back out. An attempted rescue was made by 2 colleagues who entered the small chamber, but they also lost consciousness almost immediately. All 3 men needed to be rescued by emergency services but only one recovered, his colleagues died at the scene. Investigation established that Scottish Sea Farms had not provided suitable information, instruction and training for employees working in the small sealed chambers on the Loch Creran barge or a safe way for them to work. Logan Inglis Limited had not provided information, instruction or training for their engineers on working in these confined spaces. Scottish Sea Farms was fined £600,000 after pleading guilty to breaching S.2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. Logan Inglis Limited admitted breaching the same legal requirement and was fined £40,000. 6th July 2011

Ghana

Engineer drowns in crude oil tank

An engineer died in a confined space accident in a tank on the Bonsu-Q, a crude oil storage vessel belonging to Saltpond Offshore Producing Company Ltd. He was attempting to couple a hose to a diaphragm pump and had already completed some of the task before becoming overcome in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere and falling from a ladder and drowning in the crude oil. 11th July 2011

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Rep Ireland

Killarney hotel lift accident

The HSA is investigating an accident at the Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa of the O'Donoghue-Ring group where 5 people were injured when a lift travelling from 2nd floor level to a basement garage dropped quickly. The lift had been inspected and serviced recently, some of the injured may have fractured bones. 12th July 2011

Canada

Company fined over salt dome death

Sifto Canada Corporation was fined \$140K (£90,393) at Ontario Court of Justice in Sarnia after pleading guilty to a breach of Ontario Regulation 854, Section 59(1) over a fatal accident on August 25th 2009. In a large salt storage dome a worker had stepped down from his excavator, which had broken down, to clear salt from his machine. However, a conveyor under the dome activated and salt began to be drawn through a grate in the dome's floor. The worker was drawn down and died. 15th July 2011

England

2 dead in slurry pit accident

Two men have died at a farm in Essex after they apparently could not escape from a slurry pit. The incident occurred on Friday afternoon at the property at Stapleford Tawney where firefighters had to drain the slurry, a further 2 men were taken to hospital for treatment. 17th July 2011

South Korea

Seoul water surveyor dies in confined space accident

A worker surveying the water system in the Namyong-dong district of central Seoul has died in a confined space accident in a 3-metre deep manhole. Two colleagues were also injured, one of whom remains in an unconscious condition in hospital. 25th July 2011

August 2011

USA

Fatal accident at Dallas bakery

A Texas bakery worker was killed on Tuesday after becoming trapped in machinery and crushed on a conveyor belt at CSM Bakery Products on Miller Road, Dallas. 3rd August 2011

England

Worker entered machine enclosure

A production line worker, who was able to gain access to equipment through a defective interlocked gate in a 2-metre high perimeter fence surrounding it, was seriously injured

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when it started up as he freed a blockage. Investigation revealed the gate had been interfered with and tied open, and frequent jamming meant workers regularly passed the gate rather than stopping and isolating the machine. The production line at Euro Clad Ltd in Wentloog produces roof panels, and on 19th April 2009 the machine that positions wooden blocks beneath packs of roof panels jammed in the machinery. The accident victim entered the enclosure with the machine in automatic mode and reached under it to reach the jammed bearers and free them. However, once the blockage was removed, the machinery started up again and crushed his wrist between the bearer and the base frame. Euro Clad Ltd breached r.11 (3) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and was fined £20,000 plus £6,000 costs. 8th August 2011

England

Heavy rains trap group in Yorks cave

A group of 11 Lancashire cavers, comprising of 3 adults and 8 teenagers, became trapped by rising water on Wednesday in the Lower Long Churn cave in the Ingleton area of the Yorkshire Dales and after waiting for a few hours for the water to subside they were led out by the Cave Rescue Organisation. 11th August 2011

Wales

Confined space accident kills camper

North Wales Police are not treating as suspicious the death of a 34-year old female holidaymaker who appears to have succumbed to barbecue fumes in the confined space of a tent at a camping site in Gyrn Goch, Gwynedd, her husband and 2 children were listed in comfortable condition in hospital in Bangor. 17th August 2011

Scotland

Workman dies at Tayside company

It is reported that a workman in his 30's died yesterday after collapsing within a chemical tank. The incident occurred at the premises of Diamond Wheels Technologies in Dryburgh Industrial Estate, Dundee, where it repairs and refurbishes alloy vehicle wheels. 19th August 2011

Scotland

Fishermen hospitalised in confined space accident

Three workers were airlifted from the Peterhead fishing boat Starlight Rays working on guard duty in the Devenick oil field after apparently being overcome by fumes in the engine room. 26th August 2011

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September 2011

Sweden

Worker falls through silo roof into corrosive liquid

A worker's body was recovered from a cistern of hot lye yesterday at the Munksjo Paper factory in Billingsfors. He had fallen 9 metres through the roof of a silo containing the cistern of lye heated to 175°C, Arbetsmiljoverket (Work Environment Authority) has launched an investigation. 1st September 2011

USA

Worker crushed in Iowa grain bin

A worker suffocated in a grain bin at the MaxYield Cooperative elevator in Dickens, Iowa, when corn became unstable in the bin as 3 workers were emptying it. 8th September 2011

England

Guard had been removed from accident machine

A 41-year old employee of Stakapal Ltd, Norton Canes, Cannock, was pulled into the rotating parts of a machine he was operating to make metal shelving components. On 20th December last year, he was adjusting the multi-roll forming machine when his high-visibility vest and jacket snagged in its spindle, drawing him into the moving parts which inflicted cuts to the back of his head, above his right eye and on his back. He sustained a blow to his cheek bone, bruises on his right arm and a puncture hole in his right elbow, injuries which still cause him pain and discomfort. The fixed guard preventing contact with dangerous parts of the machine had been removed at least 2 to 3 years previously, there were no interlocking guards around the rolling mills and there was only one emergency stop button. HSE investigation found the company had not supervised him properly or assessed the risks arising from adjusting the rollers during productions. Stakapal was in breach of r.11(1) of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 and was fined £10,000 plus £5,500 costs.

An HSE official commented: "The risks from machinery are well known and the standards in guarding are well established.

19th September 2011

England

Man fell into molten metal

A 28-year old worker at a Stoke-on-Trent foundry has been unable to return to work after suffering severe burns to an arm and legs when he tripped and fell into a mould containing metal at more than 900°C. He remains traumatised and still requires

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physiotherapy. The accident occurred as he removed impurities from the top of a newly poured casting using a long-handled tool, but he tripped and fell through an unfenced gap between the metal mould and the pit it was in. He landed on the mould's edge and immersed his arm, his legs were burned by contact with the scraped impurities. Employer Copper Alloys Ltd of Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, failed to erect a guard railing around the edge of the mould pit and failed to recognise the extreme danger such a fall represented to the workers, which was a foreseeable event. Copper Alloys admitted breaching r.13(5) of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 and was fined £8,000 plus £4,798 costs. 21st September 2011

USA

New York engineer killed in fall down lift shaft

A 44-year old lift engineer died in a fall into an open lift shaft at a building on West 38th Street, New York. The lift was deactivated at the time and it is speculated that he lost his balance and fell from the 9th floor. He was alive and in cardiac arrest when medics arrived but he died later in hospital. 26th September 2011

USA

2 Maine workers died in septic tank confined space accident

Two employees of Stevens Electric & Pump Service have died in an apparent confined space accident at the Lodge at Turbat's Creek in Kennebunkport, Maine. They were repairing a sewage pump in a 3-metre deep concrete holding tank and appear to have been overcome in an oxygen deficient atmosphere. Concern grew about the workers and their bodies were later found floating in the tank when it was decided to pump it out. 29th September 2011

England

Manhole explosions injure 2

It is speculated that the series of explosions which injured 2 people on Wednesday evening in the vicinity of Crewe station were caused by underground cable faults. Several thousand properties experienced a disruption to their power supply. 30th September 2011

October 2011

Scotland

Augur cost engineer his leg

The employer of a maintenance engineer who lost his leg to an augur in a Perthshire grain silo has been prosecuted. The accident victim entered the silo at Sidlaw Grain Store in Burrelton to clear a blockage without isolating the power to it. He believes he slipped and got both legs caught in the equipment, one had to be later amputated, the other was badly fractured. Pauls Malt Ltd of Suffolk, the UK's largest maltster, was fined £8,000. 5th October 2011

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Scotland

Injured worker never read risk assessment

A man is left with a disabling injury after safety failures at a Fife farm conspired to allow an industrial accident on 4th September 2009. The 26-year old worker was emptying rainwater from a grain reception pit using a bucket. The pit, part of a grain drying system, featured a screw auger to shift the grain and effectively comprises a large screw which rotates inside a steel tube, part of which is exposed. The screw auger was switched off but the power had not been isolated before the work commenced.

As work progressed, a colleague was cleaning a nearby grain drying bin, and this required him to unload the bin and remove leftover grain by activating a different screw auger conveyor that ran from the drying bin to the storage bin. But at the control panel he mistakenly activated the switch for the screw auger inside the grain reception pit which started to rotate, trapping his colleague's foot. The accident victim's small toe was severed and another badly injured and this had to be amputated. He finds it difficult to walk because of pain in his foot and now walks with a limp. No company risk assessment featured any activity that required employees to enter the grain reception pit, and a generic risk assessment document obtained during the investigation stated that no unguarded machines should be cleaned unless they were switched off, but neglected to explain the necessity of power isolation. Additionally, the accident victim was never given the opportunity to read this risk assessment. At Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court R Todd & Company was fined £20,000 having breached S.2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. 12th October 2011

Italy

Farmer dies after arm traps in auger

An auger accident claimed the life of a 58-year old Asti farmer at the weekend when he was working with his son on foundations for a henhouse at his farm in Calamandrama. It is thought that his arm became trapped in the auger and although he was transported quickly to hospital in Nizza Monferrato where he succumbed to his severe injury. 24th October 2011

USA

Worker pulled into industrial laundry dryer

A worker has died in a blunt force trauma accident at a uniform laundry and rental business of Cintas Corporation in Louisville, Kentucky, where he was drawn into an industrial dryer. It is speculated that he had been attempting a minor repair when the dryer activated, which would cause the large doors to close and trap him inside. It was also speculated that a safety device was either missing or had been overridden. 30th October 2011

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November 2011

USA

Transport fatality at Montana precious metals mine

The Mine Safety & Health Administration is investigating a fatal transport accident at the Stillwater Mine near Nye, Montana, where a lead equipment operator driving a lorry lost control of it and ran into a ditch 400 metres underground. A rock bolt struck his neck, inflicting fatal injury. 2nd November 2011

USA

Worker killed, another missing in Texas confined space accident

A confined space accident has claimed the lives of 2 workers of SJ Lewis, subcontracted to North Texas Municipal Water District, who were trying to unblock a sewer at the rear of a residential property in Fairview, 25 miles northeast of Dallas. One worker entered the manhole and was apparently overcome by fumes. A colleague followed in a rescue attempt, his body has not been recovered. Rescuers wearing breathing apparatus recovered the body of the first worker, neither of the contractors was wearing respiratory gear. 4th November 2011

Canada

Worker drawn into gravel pit conveyor

A 31-year old Alberta quarry worker was killed in an accident at Surmont Sand and Gravel quarry 30 miles south of Fort McMurray when his arm became caught in conveyor system rollers and he was drawn into the equipment as he tried to remove excess gravel from the conveyor. 9th November 2011

Switzerland

Mask proved ineffective in confined space incident

A confined space incident claimed the life of a worker yesterday at the Syngenta plant in Monthey where he died in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere in a chemical tank into which he had descended to retrieve a dropped tool. He was wearing a respiratory mask but the standard was insufficient for the toxicity of the atmosphere. 22nd November 2011

USA

Auger accident leads to leg amputation

A 31-year old worker of Treehouse Almonds in Delano, California, has had to have a leg amputated after an accident while carrying out maintenance work on an auger. 25th November 2011

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USA

Wisconsin workers overcome in adhesive rich atmosphere

A confined space accident occurred at Vivid Image, a video equipment manufacturing plant in Theresa, Wisconsin, where a 55-year old worker died and a 65-year old colleague was hospitalised after being found in an oxygen-deficient atmosphere pervaded by a strong odour of glue and adhesive. 30th November 2011

December 2011

Canada

Worker falls 30m into Quebec grain silo

A subcontract worker died in a 30-metre fall into an empty grain silo at the Trois Rivieres port where he and a colleague were engaged in cleaning work. 1st December 2011

Scotland

Schoolgirl falls down lift shaft

A 15-year old girl has fallen 5 metres down into a lift shaft at Liberton High School in Edinburgh. She is being treated in hospital for back injuries. Accounts state that a number of children were in a lift at the time it was stationary between floors and the girl fell as the carriage was being evacuated. 9th December 2011

England

Recycling industry fatality

A worker who was trapped in machinery at a Hertfordshire recycling centre at the Ivory Industrial Estate in Radlett has died. The man, in his 20's, died on Wednesday afternoon at the scene. 16th December 2011

England

Teenager dies in grain silo

An 18-year old man has died after, it is believed, falling into a silo at a farm in Brockton, Shropshire. He was discovered on Wednesday evening where he was confirmed dead by paramedics. 24th December 2011

January 2012-File Not Found

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February 2012

China

Confined space triple fatality at copper smelters

Three workers of the Zijin Copper Corporation died in a confined space accident in the copper smelting plant while engaged in maintenance work on a chemical tank. The first worker was overcome quickly upon entering the oxygen deficient atmosphere, of 3 others who subsequently entered to attempt a rescue of their colleague, only 1 survived. 1st February 2012

USA

Woman and horse killed in explosion at Florida equine rehab centre

At the Kesmarc Farm & Equine Rehabilitation Centre in Ocala, Florida, a woman and a horse were killed when an explosion led to a partial collapse of a building in which a horse was undergoing treatment in a hyperbaric chamber. The high pressure oxygen chamber had a protective padded shield inside its steel walls but the horse became restless and the kicking of its hooves breached the padding and created sparks which is thought to have led to the explosion. 14th February 2012

Chile

Worker killed in fall into machinery at refrigeration unit

A 17-year old worker fell into machinery at the Congelados San Rafael on Pedro Montl Street, Talcahuano, and made contact with the blades of an auger which inflicted fatal injuries. 17th February 2012

March 2012

Luxembourg

Worker trapped in Esch manhole

A Sanem worker was hospitalised with unspecified injuries after being rescued from a manhole into which he fell yesterday during sewer maintenance work on the Esch highway between Belvaux and Esch-sur-Arzette. Fire crews reported that earth ingress occurred and he was trapped by the legs at the bottom of the manhole. 6th March 2012

Austria

Workers burned to death in aluminium plant oven

Two workers were burned to death in a preheating oven on Thursday at the Salzburger Aluminium plant in Lend. The bodies were charred beyond recognition, it is initially

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believed that they were engaged in cleaning work, their demise was due to the heat in the oven as opposed to molten liquid. 9th March 2012

France

Two sugar silo cleaners buried under slippage

Two contract workers of Carrard Services of Reims died in a crush accident in a silo at the Cristal Union sugar plant in Bazancourt, Marne, where they were buried under 3K tonnes of sugar. 15th March 2012

Argentina

Mendoza sewage worker dies in confined space accident

A 30-year old worker collapsed and died after being overcome with fumes when he entered a manhole to investigate a sewage problem in the Antartida Argentina barrio of Luzuriaga, Maipu, a colleague accompanying him was hospitalised. 16th March 2012

England

Company fined over Work at Height breach

At Runcorn Magistrates' Court Hutchinson Technical Services Ltd was fined £10K plus £3,588 in costs over an accident at its Widnes site where a worker was injured when he fell 2.5 metres on to a metal girder from the top of a tank inside which chemical vapour ignited and exploded. There were no fall prevention measures in place and the company pleaded guilty to breaching r.6(3) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 by failing to ensure that suitable measures were in place to prevent a worker being injured in a fall. The company promptly rectified this by installing cages on top of tanks and introducing safety harnesses. 28th March 2012

APRIL 2012

Russia

Confined space fatality at old piggery well

An Uzbek migrant worker has drowned and 2 others are listed in intensive care in hospital in Volzhsky after apparently being exposed to toxic fumes in a confined space accident while working at an abandoned well on a former piggery in Volgograd. Six workers in all were involved in the well project, the 5 survivors all participated in the attempted rescue of the stricken worker. 4th April 2012

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USA

Connecticut boy,6, drawn into wood chipper

A 6-year old boy has died in an accident after being drawn into a wood chipping machine into which he was feeding a branch at the family landscaping business in Salem, Connecticut. 11th April 2012

Austria

Worker crushed in paper press; worker dies in lift shaft fall

A 24-year old worker died in a crush accident on Wednesday involving a paper and cardboard compressor at a supermarket on Innsbruck Street in Hall in Tirol, it is thought that he was attempting to clear a blockage with a metal rod when he lost his balance and fell in. In Vienna on Wednesday a 27-year old worker died and a colleague aged 33 was injured in a 20-metre fall into a lift shaft at a 4-storery building on Weitlofgasse, both belong to the company which installed the lift. 12th April 2012

India

Confined space incident claims 3 lives

Three men working for JNNURM(Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission) died in a confined space accident while working on sewer laying at a site in Kanpur, one worker who survived the accident is listed in critical condition in hospital. 13th April 2012

The Netherlands

Passenger falls into open maintenance chamber at Amsterdam station

A 47-year old man was badly injured yesterday when he fell into an open chamber and struck a steel ladder on the platform at Amstel Station in Amsterdam where the hatch had been left open for maintenance work.26th April 2012

MAY 2012

USA

Roofer critically burned in fall into nitric acid tank

A roofer of Gar Con Enterprises was listed in critical condition last night following an accident on Monday morning at the Swepeco Tube plant in Clifton, New Jersey, where he fell 13 metres and was submerged in a tank with a 40%-70% nitric acid solution. A colleague close to the tank immediately went to his rescue, immersing himself to waist level. 8th May 2012

Belgium

Lift engineer crushed in Brussels

A 55-year old lift engineer has died in a crush accident while undertaking maintenance on a lift in an apartment building on Livornostraat in the Elsene district of Brussels. He

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was working alone when the lift apparently moved, he was discovered at 4th floor level where he had become crushed between the lift cage and a metal bar. 9th May 2012

Malta

Worker killed in hay baler

An agricultural worker was killed yesterday in hay baling machinery while working in a field in tal-Fessej in Xewkija, Gozo. 14th May 2012

Argentina

Worker falls 11 storeys down lift shaft

A 34-year old construction worker fell 11-storeys to his death down a lift shaft of a building under construction in Santiago del Estero. Just prior to the accident yesterday he had been cutting concrete sections and metal and it is speculated that he may have unhooked his safety harness to facilitate the work. 24th May 2012

Italy

Boat cleaners unconscious after confined space accident

Two workers were admitted to Sant'Andrea Hospital in La Spezia after being found unconscious in an oxygen deficient atmosphere in a large yacht at Fincantieri's Muggiano Shipyard in La Spezia. They are employees of Sepor engaged in cleaning and degassing boats. Medics were being cautiously optimistic last night of their survival prospects. 23rd May 2012

June 2012

China

3 dead in confined space accident

A confined space accident has killed 3 workers and a 4th has been hospitalised in Hengyang, Hunan, where an attempt was being made to clean a chemical tanker at a car wash where there was no protective equipment to enter an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. 1st June 201

Northern Ireland

Down farm worker falls into slurry tank

The HSENI has been advised of a fatal accident on a farm on Redhill Road, Dromore, County Down, where a worker died after falling into a slurry tank. 8th June 2012

The Netherlands

Farmer killed in harvester accident

A farmer was found dead yesterday afternoon in an accident involving his combine

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harvester on his land at Benningbroek, north Holland, details of the accident were unclear. 15th June 2012

Luxembourg

Fuel residue ignites during tank cleaning

A worker was listed in life-threatening condition in the burns unit of a hospital in Liege, Belgium, where he was transferred with burns over much of his body after an explosion occurred as he was cleaning a tank which contained some fuel residue at premises in Marnach. 27th June 2012

July 2012

Russia

Worker missing after oil tank explodes

A 500m³ underground oil tank exploded and ignited at the Deltacom depot in Angarsk, Irkutsk, one worker was rescued but another was unaccounted for. 4th July 2012

Mexico

Confined space fatality

A Tamaulipas sewage worker has died in a confined space accident after encountering a toxic atmosphere while investigating a sewage blockage near the KALTEX Fibres factory on Boulevard de los Rios, Altamira. 5th July 2012

USA

Tank explosion on Ohio well site kills worker

A storage tank has exploded at an oil and gas well site near Bolivar, Ohio, killing a maintenance worker who was in close proximity to the receiving tank. 18th July 2012

England

Worker entered car crusher to clear blockage

At Southern Derbyshire Magistrates' Court Ward Recycling has been fined £20K plus £19,970 in costs over an accident on 17th June 2009 in which a worker was badly injured while attempting to clear a blockage in fragmentiser car-crushing equipment. He had entered the fragmentiser but the car slid downwards on to him, leaving him with fractures and kidney and liver damage. HSE investigation found that this was a monthly occurrence but staff had inadequate training for such an exigency. The staff member who was trained in the equipment's operation was on holiday at the time of the accident. The company pleaded guilty to a breach of Section 2(1) of the Health & Safety at Work

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etc Act 1974 by failing to have a safe system of work at its site on Griffon Road, Ilkeston. 25th July 2012

Italy

Maintenance worker severely burned in laundry boiler

A Lombardy maintenance worker is in intensive care in hospital in Genoa with 2nd degree burns over 60% of his body after being struck by an issue of scalding vapour while working in a large boiler at the SMR laundry premises on via Gromaglie, Martinengo. 25th July 2012

Argentina

Worker fatally scalded in sugar boiler

A maintenance worker died from burns over 90% of his body while working inside an 11-metre high boiler at the Concepcion sugar plant in Banda del Rio Sali, Tucuman. He and 7 others were working inside the 8-metre wide boiler when boiling liquid suddenly entered it. His colleagues are being treated for burns of varying severity. 27th July 2012

August 2012

China

4 rail construction workers die from toxic fumes

Four railway workers have died in a confined space accident in the Chongqing municipality following the buildup of toxic fumes while working on an underground section of the new Chongqing-Chengdu high speed rail line. 3rd August 2012

France

Man found drowned in chip plant waste water tank

A 58-year old man was found drowned in a waste water tank at the McCain chip factory in Bethune, Pas-de-Calais. The tank contains water and sludge from the washing of potatoes, an autopsy on Tuesday appeared to rule out foul play, further tests are planned. 8th August 2012

Germany

Worker dies in fall in milk tank

A 60-year old contract worker of a metal construction company has died in a 20-metre fall in a milk tank at a dairy products premises in Cham. He had entered the tank and descended a ladder to a platform which failed to bear his weight. 10th August 2012

Australia

Cattle station worker drawn into feed bin

Worksafe in Western Australia is investigating a fatal accident which occurred on a

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cattle station 30 miles from Broome where a worker died after being drawn into a thrashing machine processing hay for a feed bin. 13th August 2012
Singapore

Worker falls down 23m hole at rail site

The health and safety inspectorate of the Ministry of Manpower has issued a stop work order at the Tuas west rail extension site being operated by constructor China Railway 11 Bureau Group Corporation following a fatal accident in which a worker died in a fall down a 23-metre deep bore hole. A rebar cage was being lowered by chain when it became loose and dragged the worker into the 1.5-metre wide hole. 28th August 2012

USA

Confined space fatality in Missouri sewer

A Missouri contract worker died yesterday in a suspected confined space accident while working in a sewer at the Boschertown Sanitary Lift Station off Highway 94 in St Charles County. He was found at a depth of 10 metres in the sewer which is part of the Boschertown Wastewater Treatment Lagoons, instruments monitoring air quality in the sewer found an oxygen-deficient atmosphere. 29th August 2012

September 2012

India

Worker crushed in coal cleaning machine

A coal worker has died in a crush accident in Godhavarikhani, Andhra Pradesh, where he slipped and fell into a coal washing machine while cleaning a conveyor feeding system. 11th September 2012

India

Worker crushed in coal cleaning machine

A coal worker has died in a crush accident in Godhavarikhani, Andhra Pradesh, where he slipped and fell into a coal washing machine while cleaning a conveyor feeding system. 11th September 2012

China

Workers died in fall down 200m shaft at new mine

More than 10 workers have died after a platform overturned and they fell 200-metres into a water-filled shaft at the site of the new Huacaoton Coal Mine being built by Zhangye Hononeng Coal Industry Ltd in Zhangye City, Gansu. 9th September 2012

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Italy

Fatal accidents at Venetian silo and highway site

The 67-year old manager of a maintenance company died in a crush accident yesterday at Nuova De Franceschi Azteca Milling Europe where he became caught in an extraction unit in a silo at the flour and grain mill in Ceggia. He sustained blunt chest trauma injury and one of his legs was severed. At Gorizia yesterday a 24-year old bulldozer operator died from severe head injuries when his vehicle overturned during a reversing manoeuvre during fibre optic installation work on the Gorizia-Udine highway 56. 13th September 2012

Northern Ireland

Triple fatality as 4 fall into Down farm slurry tank

Emergency services attended an incident yesterday at a farm on Drumlough Road, Hillsborough, County Down, where 3 people died after falling into a slurry tank. The deceased are thought to be a father and 2 sons, a woman who also fell in was hospitalised, her condition was unknown. 16th September 2012

England

Docker killed in fall into ship's hold

A 59-year old worker has died in James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, after falling 20 metres into the hold of the Bright Ocean during the loading of steel pipes on to the ship at Irvine's Quay, the PD Ports dock on Ferry Road, Hartlepool. 11th September 2012

Wales

Man rescued from disused Powys mine shaft

A cave rescue team was called in to complete the safe rescue of a man who had fallen 10 metres into a disused mine shaft while walking in woodland at Taliesin in Powys. 16th September 2012

China

Store customer dies in fall down lift shaft

A female customer died after stepping into an open lift shaft at 6th floor level of the Shanghai Hualian Department Store on Nanjing Road, Shanghai. Lift maintenance workers were installing new lifts on the building's top floor and it was alleged that a large timber section which had been placed at the 6th floor lift entrance to prevent access had been removed. 25th September 2012

India

2 dead in confined space manhole accident

A contract worker of Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board and a Metrowater engineer have died in a confined space accident in a manhole on Maduraisamy Street in Perambur. Four manholes had been cleaned earlier in the night but the contractor was overcome by the oxygen-deficient atmosphere as he lifted the lid

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of the 5th one and fell in. The water engineer died in attempting his rescue. The work would appear to have been a breach of a Supreme Court order stopping the manual entry and cleaning of manholes. 27th September 2012

England

Company fined over death of worker in machine

At Liverpool Crown Court JFC Plastics Ltd (formerly Delleve Plastics Ltd) was fined £140K plus £100K in costs over a fatal accident at the company's former premises in Bold where a 31-year old worker was presumed to have died after falling into a machine used to break apart bales of plastic bottles. He had last been seen alive on November 24th 2005 and it is thought that he was checking on the process when he lost his balance and fell in. HSE investigation found that the company failed to take steps to prevent access to the machine while it was operating and failed to ensure that the machine was de-activated prior to maintenance. HSE also found the risk assessment to be inadequate and training, supervision and monitoring of work failed to meet acceptable standards. The company pleaded guilty to a breach of Section 2(1) of the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974. 30th September 2012

Argentina

Confined space accident at winery

A 30 year old worker has died in a confined space accident after being overcome while cleaning a tank at a Tierra de Huarpes winery in Chimbab. Initial investigation of the accident by police indicated that he was wearing a mask with 2 filters when he entered the 3-metre deep tank but this failed to protect him. 30th September 2012

October 2012

Rep Ireland

Dublin bin man crushed in wagon compactor

The HSA is investigating a fatal accident which claimed the life of a refuse collector during a late night collection round on Grand Canal Street, Dublin. He became trapped in the compaction unit at the rear of the Ozo wagon, the man, believed to be Polish and in his 40's, could only be freed with specialist cutting gear. 5th October 2012

Australia

Worker killed in bagging machine

A 42-year old worker died after becoming caught in bagging machinery yesterday at a hay processing plant on Old Adelaide Road, Kapunda, it was not initially clear whether his clothing had snagged and drawn him in to the machine which bags stock feed for the export market. 10th October 2012

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Switzerland

Worker badly burned in oil tank

A maintenance worker is listed in intensive care in the burns unit of a Lausanne hospital after being burned in an explosion during work on an interred oil tank at a villa on Crete Road, Morges. He was inside the tank when the explosion occurred, it is speculated that another worker who was outside the tank was engaged in hot metal work. 14th October 2012

Rep Ireland

Farmer found dead at slurry tank

The HSA is investigating a fatal accident on a farm between Mullingar and Delvin, County Westmeath, in which a 72-year old farmer has died. He was missing and was later found dead at a slurry tank. 11th October 2012

USA

Worker cooked to death in industrial oven

A 62-year old worker has died in an industrial oven at the Bumble Bee seafood plant in Santa Fe Springs, California, it was unclear why he came to be inside the steamer machine as it activated. 14th October 2012

USA

Lift engineer killed at Louisiana plant

A 44-year old lift engineer died in a blunt force trauma accident when a cable failed during maintenance work on a lift at the Cargill plant at Nine Mile Point, Louisiana, a colleague was hospitalised with non-life-threatening injuries. 18th October 2012

Germany

Worker rescued at NRW foundry

Fire crews in North Rhine-Westphalia took 3 hours to free a worker pinned by a 400-Kg panel section which became unstable as he was cleaning a filter into which he had climbed at the Hundhausen foundry in Schwerte. He was transferred to hospital in Dortmund but his condition was not known. 22nd October 2012

USA

Lift cable failure leads to fatal fall

A lift engineer died and a colleague was injured when a lift they were in fell 12 metres after a cable failed in the lift they were working on at the exterior of a grain silo at the Cargill industrial premises in Bridge City, Louisiana. 24th October 2012

Belgium

Worker bled to death in combine harvester

A Flemish agricultural worker bled to death after becoming drawn into a combine harvester while working in a field on Statiestraat in Tielt-Winge. 26th October 2012

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November 2012

New Zealand

Worker's arm was crushed in recycling machine

At Manukau District Court, General Recycle of South Auckland was fined \$40K (£20,390) plus \$50K (£25,488) in damages over an accident on 26th November last year in which a worker's arm was crushed in machinery for baling plastic for recycling. The worker had noticed an item of different grade among the plastic for recycling and in attempting to extract it from the machinery his sleeve snagged in the machine and drew his arm in. 1st November 2012

Japan

Cleaner crushed in hotel lift

A 63-year old female hotel cleaner has died in a crush accident in a lift on the 4th floor of the Apa Hotel Kanazawa Ekimae in Kanazawa. It appears that the lift doors opened as the cage was still ascending and she may have stumbled in, becoming crushed between the lift floor and the top of the entrance. The lift was installed by Swiss company Schindler in 1998 and is subject to annual inspection, successfully passing this year's inspection in February. However, for 3 years now Japanese law has required lifts to be equipped with mechanisms braking ascent or descent of lifts when doors are opened. The company has 8K lifts in Japan, including 80 of the type involved in this accident and has launched an immediate safety audit of them. 2nd November 2012

USA

Fatality at NJ glass recycling facility

A New Jersey recycling worker has died in a crush accident at Cullet Glass Recycling Company in Camden where the lower half of his body became caught in recycling equipment at a height of 7 metres where he may have been trying to clear a blockage. 3rd November 2012

South Africa

5 dead in confined space accident

Five workers have died in a confined space accident at the Homevale wastewater plant at Kimberley. One worker was in the pumping house 6 metres underground when an ingress of sludge occurred and a build-up of methane gas. The worker would have been quickly overcome in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere and his colleagues appear to have succumbed in the atmosphere in attempting his rescue. 7th November 2012

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Argentina

Mechanic killed in 13-storey fall down lift shaft

A subcontract lift mechanic has died in a fall down a lift shaft from the 17th floor to the 4th floor on a Gama construction site building in the Villa Urquiza district of Cordoba. 16th November 2012

Nicaragua

Boy dies in fall down uncovered manhole

An 8-year old boy has died in a fall down into a 6-metre deep manhole from which the cover was missing in Managua. An extensive search eventually found the boy's body in the manhole just 50 metres from his home. It is speculated that the cover had been stolen for its scrap metal value, the municipal authorities have been positioning plastic covers as replacements. 19th November 2012

England

Grain bin crush death ruled accidental

An inquest jury in Bridgenorth has returned a verdict of accidental death over an accident on 21st December last year in which an 18-year old youth died of asphyxiation in a grain bin on Brockton Farm, the HSE has an ongoing investigation into the accident. 23rd November 2012

December 2012

Japan

2 dead in separate lift accidents

A male worker who was delivering a package at premises in Himeji has died in a lift accident. The package became stuck in a gap between the lift and the floor level and as his legs straddled the lift door it suddenly descended. Elsewhere, police in Nagoya are investigating the death of a female restaurant worker whose dead body was found trapped in the door of a dumbwaiter designed for the transfer of plates and crockery only. 4th December 2012

France

Breton worker injured in food machinery

A 25-year old worker was hospitalised in Guingamp on Tuesday after being injured when he became trapped in a 300Kg food-processing machine at the Farmor premises on the Bellevue industrial estate in Saint-Agathon, his condition in hospital was unknown. 12th December 2012

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Italy

Worker crushed in flour mill machinery

A 43-year old Indian worker died of crush injuries on Monday after becoming caught in machinery which places flour sacks on pallets at the Molina Chiavazza flour manufacturing company in Casalgrasso, Cuneo. 11th December 2012

Malta

Worker injured in 4-storey fall

A construction worker was listed in critical condition last night after falling 4 storeys down a shaft at a building undergoing renovation on Mdina Street in Attard, central Malta. 18th December 2012

Ecuador

Worker killed in lift accident

A worker sustained a fatal head injury on Monday at the JEP(Juventud Ecuatoriana Progresista) credit union in Cuenca while working on a lift in the parking area of the premises. 18th December 2012

Peru

Worker drowns in confined space sewer accident

A worker has drowned in a fall into an 8-metre deep sewage chamber during maintenance work in the Mochumi district in Lambayeque. He appeared to have been overcome by toxic fumes and fell in, a colleague who attempted to rescue him became aware of the fumes and had to abandon a rescue attempt. 20th December 2012

Austria

Worker dies in cement mixer accident

A 46-year old worker died from horrific injuries in a large cement mixer in which his body was torn apart when the machine activated as he was performing maintenance work on it at a site in Steiermark. The lower half of his body was inside the machine when it activated and he lost his balance. 21st December 2012