



## Ammonia storage – public awareness

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## Introduction

- The worlds largest ammonia tank (anhydrous) is located in the largest industrial site in Norway, not far from populated areas.
- A major leak from this tank is evaluated to create a disaster in this community.
- Operation of the tank must therefore guarantee no major breakdown or leakage.

# Ammoniakk tank , Yara Porsgrunn



## Discussions regarding inspections programme

- In 2006 discussions started regarding the inspection programme for the tank, which is double walled.
  - The owner wanted to continue with their ongoing inspections programme, which consisted of inspections of the outer wall and of the outer surface of the inner wall.
  - Due to long experience with corrosion mechanisms in ammonia tanks, the owner did not find it necessary to empty the tank and inspect the inner wall.
- We as authority were uncertain about this approach, some employees were worried and did not agree with the owners conclusion, and there was a growing concern amongst people living in the surrounding areas.
- After a long discussion also involving the public and the media, the company ended up with emptying the tank and opening it for inspection.

## Inspection of the ammonia tank in the spring of 2008

- The inspections revealed that the inner surface of the tank was «as new»
- It was concluded that the company's inspection philosophy was ok
- Public concerns calmed down, but the tank is still there and is closely followed-up by the owner

Inside the tank – picture from the inspection



# National Risk Scenario

## Gas-emission from Industrial Plant

- ✓ This case made us more aware of the possible risks of this storage facility
- ✓ Evaluated as a low probability scenario in Norway's national risk evaluation

