Ammonia accident as trigger for changing safety paradigm

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Process safety in Israel- regulators main players

**Ministry of Transport and Road Safety**
- Transportation law and its regulations (1997)
  1. License for dangerous materials vehicles.
  2. HazMat transportation directives.

**Ministry of Labor**
- Explosives law (1954), oil holding (1976)
  1. Employee safety
  2. License of explosive materials and oil holders

**Fire and Rescue Services**
- Fire department law (2012)
  1. Fire prevention
  2. Training emergency teams.

**Home front command (HFC)**
- Civil law (1951)
  1. Preparedness of HAZMAT holders for emergency events.
  2. Physical Protection of HazMat.

**Ministry of Environmental protection**
- Hazmat law (1993)
  1. License to hold and use Hazmat.
  2. Preparedness to Hazmat accidents.
Subcontractors as a weakness point
Sub contractor - Registered accidents in main chemical plants (2012-2014)

Registered accident - OSHA: 220

Registered accident - National Insurance: 5,234

5,234 = 220 x 24
‘Hod Hefer’- Chain of event

‘Hode Hefer’- ID

- Part of ‘TNUVA’ group since 2009
- Distance to population- 1Km
- 30 Ton Ammonia
- Storage facilities: 2 closed systems
‘Hod Hefer’- Chain of event

- On Nov 7 2014, Sub contractors performing renovation of ammonia facility
- After lunch break, the contractors were separated from company representative in order to continuing their work
• At 2pm sub contractor drilled 1 inch diameter hole in active ammonia pipe
• 6 Ton ammonia leaked.
• 1 person killed, 20 injured
• Industry area were evacuated.
POLICE GIVE ALL CLEAR AFTER AMMONIA LEAK IN EMEK HEFER KILLS 1

An ammonia leak at an industrial site in Emek Hefer, central Israel, has killed one person and injured two others, the Israeli police said. The leak occurred at a site where ammonia is used as a refrigerant in the food industry. The police said initial investigations suggest that the leak was caused by a malfunction in the equipment.

The incident prompted a large-scale evacuation of the nearby area, as authorities feared the release of toxic gas. Emergency services responded quickly, and the area was decontaminated to prevent further incidents.

Local residents were advised to stay indoors and avoid the area until it was declared safe. The police said they were working to determine the cause of the leak and would take steps to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The incident highlights the importance of strict safety measures in industrial settings. Authorities are urging companies to review their safety protocols and ensure that all equipment is regularly inspected and maintained.

The Israeli Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OHSA) is investigating the incident to determine if there were any violations of safety regulations. The results of the investigation will be made public once completed.

In a statement, OHSA said it was deeply concerned about the incident and would take all necessary steps to ensure that the workplace was safe for workers.

The authorities have called for a review of safety procedures in the industry and have urged employers to take immediate action to ensure the safety of their workers.

The incident serves as a reminder of the importance of safety in the workplace and the need for strict adherence to safety protocols to prevent accidents and ensure the health and well-being of workers.

The police said they were working with the relevant authorities to determine the cause of the leak and would take steps to prevent similar incidents in the future.
Main steps which were taken

1. Cooperation with MoEP (Hazards Permits, IL-EMARS)
2. Mandatory obligation for safety officer in large contractors companies
3. Executing of joint regulators inspection teams
4. COP for safety management of sub contractors
THE END