



Fatality #15 - October 10, 2012
Other – Georgia – Kaolin and Ball Clay
Thiele Kaolin Company – Main Processing Plant

METAL/NONMETAL MINE FATALITY - On October 10, 2012, a 55-year old contract painter with 35 years of experience was killed at a kaolin and ball clay operation. He was standing on the bottom of a 40-foot high, 50-foot diameter tank that was open to the atmosphere and covered with mesh cloth material. He was spraying coal tar on the inside walls of the tank and was found unconscious by coworkers. He was recovered by emergency personnel and pronounced dead at a hospital.



Best Practices

- Develop, implement, and maintain a written Hazard Communication (HazCom) program.
- Ensure that a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is accessible to persons for each hazardous chemical to which they may be exposed.
- Review and discuss MSDS control section recommendations with employees that may be exposed to hazardous chemicals. Establish and discuss safe work procedures before starting any work and identify and control all hazards.
- Train all persons to recognize and understand safe job procedures, including the physical and health hazards of chemicals that are being used and the proper use of respiratory protection, gloves, body suits, hearing, and eye & face protection.
- Ensure that adequate ventilation is provided to all work areas.
- Ensure that persons are not required to perform work alone in any area where hazardous conditions exist that would endanger their safety.
- Conduct air monitoring with calibrated instruments to ensure a safe working atmosphere. Air monitoring should be done prior to workers entering the confined work space and continuously till the workers have exited the enclosed area. Atmospheric monitoring at minimum includes Oxygen, LEL and all potential toxic gases in the work place.

This is the 15th fatality reported in calendar year 2012 in the metal and nonmetal mining industries. As of this date in 2011, there were 10 fatalities reported in these industries. This is the 1st Other fatality in 2012. There was 0 Other fatalities in the same period in 2011.

The information provided in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.
