DOT	US Department of Transportation
PHMSA	Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
OPS	Office of Pipeline Safety
	Central Region

Principal Investigator	Allan Beshore and Gery Bauman
Senior Accident Investigator	Bryan Louque
Region Director	David Barrett
Date of Report	12/15/2011
Subject	Failure Investigation Report – TEPPCO Propane Fire

Operator, Location, & Consequences

Date of Failure	9/18/2005
Commodity Released	Propane
City/County & State	Monroe/Butler, OH
OpID & Operator Name	19237 TE Products Pipeline Company, LLC
Unit # & Unit Name	4213 Allegheny
SMART Activity #	116286
Milepost / Location	Todhunter Terminal
Type of Failure	Leak caused by incorrect operation
Fatalities	1
Injuries	0
Description of area impacted	Terminal property, did not affect an HCA
Total Costs	$5,901,302 (Appendix A)

Executive Summary

A TEPPCO employee was killed during an explosion and fire at a TEPPCO (Enterprise) terminal in Ohio. Propane leaked from the drain line of a propane/water separator. The cause of the accident is Incorrect Operations. OPS conferred with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and agreed that OSHA would investigate the failure.

System Details

The Todhunter Terminal is operated by TE Products Pipeline Company, LLC (TEPPCO) as part of the larger Enterprise Operating Products, LLC pipeline network. Todhunter receives highly volatile liquids (HVLs) through a pipeline originating in the Gulf Coast area. Incoming HVLs can be stored in underground caverns or aboveground tanks. The pipeline supplying Todhunter extends past the terminal to another TEPPCO facility in Lebanon, OH. Three pipelines exit Todhunter. One delivers jet fuel supplies to the Cincinnati airport. A bi-directional pipeline runs from the terminal to Lebanon, OH and then on to Lima, OH. The third pipeline primarily transports propane to the northeast market.

Due to extensive damage to terminal equipment, jet fuel transport to the Cincinnati airport was accomplished by truck until the terminal was fully operational. There were no other supply impacts as a result of the failure.

Events Leading up to the Failure

Three TEPPCO employees were working at the terminal. Among other things, the employees were withdrawing propane from an underground cavern. Water typically mixes with propane while it is stored underground. The propane must be dehydrated before it can be shipped to the northeast market. The propane and water mix from the cavern flows into a separator tank. Since water is heavier than propane, the water settles to the bottom of the tank and "dry" propane exits near the top. Sensors on the separator tank monitor the water level to alert operating personnel that water must be drained through a 2" pipe leaving the bottom of the tank. By opening a ¼ turn valve on the 2" piping, the water flows to a sump where it evaporates over time. TEPPCO employees were instructed to slightly open the ¼ turn valve and allow water to flow out until hearing a distinctive change in the sound of the flow. This audible change combined with a slight "jump" on the valve indicated that propane had begun flowing out of the tank and it was time to close the valve. Water had been drained from the tank several times during the hours before the failure.

At approximately 10:50 pm on 9/18/2005, all three TEPPCO employees were in the control room when an alert indicated that water needed to be drained from the separator tank. One of the employees left the control room to drain the water. After a few minutes the two employees remaining in the control room heard a loud hissing and could see a vapor cloud in the vicinity of the separator tank.

Emergency Response

One employee left the control room to look for the employee who had left to drain the water. However, he was driven away from the failure location by the vapor cloud. The other employee in the control room activated the facility emergency shut-down system and then moved away from the vapor cloud. Although the details are not known for certain, ignition and more than one explosion occurred. The two TEPPCO employees called 911 and manually closed valves in an attempt to limit the flow of propane to the fire.

The local fire department arrived on the scene. Working cooperatively with TEPPCO employees, the fire department extinguished structure fires, but allowed escaping propane to burn until the source of

propane was depleted. The remains of the third TEPPCO employee were found near the separator tank water drain valves.

TEPPCO notified the National Response Center at 4:32 pm on 9/19/2005 (Appendix B).

Findings and Contributing Factors

OPS conferred with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and agreed that OSHA would investigate the failure. An OSHA press release dated March 20, 2006 summarizes the OSHA investigation (Appendix C) - "…OSHA issued citations alleging 15 serious violations with penalties totaling $103,000 and two repeat violations with $70,000 in proposed penalties for failure to comply with federal workplace safety and health standards. Among the serious violations cited were inadequate standard operating procedures for handling propane gas, lack of self-closing valves, lack of training for employees, and use of radio-phones that were not intrinsically safe in hazardous locations. Alleged repeat violations included failure to perform inspections and tests on equipment that controlled the flow of water and propane, lack of written mechanical integrity procedures and failure to correct items found during mandated internal compliance audits of the facility…"

Appendices

A TEPPCO Accident Report to PHMSA

B NRC Report

C OSHA Press Release, dated March 20, 2006

NOTICE: This report is required by 49 CFR Part 195. Failure to report can result in a civil penalty not to exceed $25,000 for each violation for each day that such violation persists except that the maximum civil penalty shall not exceed $500,000 as provided in 49 USC 60122

Form Approved
OMB No. 2137-0047

Print

U.S. Department of Transportation
Research and Special Programs Administration

ACCIDENT REPORT – HAZARDOUS LIQUID PIPELINE SYSTEMS

Report Date oct 06,2005

No. 20050294 -- 7739
(DOT Use Only)

INSTRUCTIONS

Important: *Please read the separate instructions for completing this form before you begin. They clarify the information requested and provide specific examples. If you do not have a copy of the instructions, you can obtain one from the Office Of Pipeline Safety Web Page at http://ops.dot.gov.*

PART A – GENERAL REPORT INFORMATION

Check one or more boxes as appropriate:
☐ Original Report ☒ Supplemental Report ☒ Final Report

1. a. Operator's OPS 5-digit Identification Number (if known) / 19237 /
2. b. If Operator does not own the pipeline, enter Owner's OPS 5-digit Identification Number (if known) /_____/
   c. Name of Operator TE PRODUCTS PIPELINE COMPANY
   d. Operator street address 2929 ALLEN PARKWAY
   e. Operator address HOUSTON HARRIS TX 77019
   City, County, State and Zip Code

IMPORTANT: IF THE SPILL IS SMALL, THAT IS, THE AMOUNT IS AT LEAST 5 GALLONS BUT IS LESS THAN 5 BARRELS, COMPLETE THIS PAGE ONLY, UNLESS THE SPILL IS TO WATER AS DESCRIBED IN 49 CFR §195.52(A)(4) OR IS OTHERWISE REPORTABLE UNDER §195.50 AS REVISED IN CY 2001.

2. Time and date of the accident

/ 2309 /	/ 09 /	/ 18 /	/ 2005 /
hr.	month	day	year

3. Location of accident
(If offshore, do not complete a through d. See Part C.1)

a. Latitude: N39 27 53 Longitude: W084 23 49
(if not available, see instructions for how to provide specific location)

b. MIDDLETOWN BUTLER
City, and County or Parish

c. OH 45044
State and Zip Code

d. Mile post/valve station ● or survey station no. ○
(whichever gives more accurate location)

TODHUNTER TERMINAL

4. Telephone report

/ 773011 /	/ 09 /	/ 19 /	/ 2005 /
NRC Report Number	month	day	year

5. Losses *(Estimated)*

Public/Community Losses reimbursed by operator:

Public/private property damage	$ 0
Cost of emergency response phase	$ 0
Cost of environmental remediation	$ 0
Other Costs	$ 0
(describe)	

Operator Losses:

Value of product lost	$ 31616
Value of operator property damage	$ 0
Other Costs	$ 5869686
(describe) REPAIRS	
Total Costs	$ 5901302

6. Commodity Spilled ●Yes ○No
(If Yes, complete Parts a through c where applicable)

a. Name of commodity spilled PROPANE

b. Classification of commodity spilled:
● HVLs /other flammable or toxic fluid which is a gas at ambient conditions
○ CO_2 or other non-flammable, non-toxic fluid which is a gas at ambient conditions
○ Gasoline, diesel, fuel oil or other petroleum product which is a liquid at ambient conditions
○ Crude oil

c. Estimated amount of commodity involved :
● **Barrels**
○ **Gallons (check only if spill is less than one barrel)**

Amounts:
Spilled : 667
Recovered: 0

CAUSES FOR SMALL SPILLS ONLY (5 gallons to under 5 barrels) : ***(For large spills [5 barrels or greater] see Part H)***

○ **Corrosion** ○ **Natural Forces** ○ **Excavation Damage** ○ **Other Outside Force Damage**
○ **Material and/or Weld Failures** ○ **Equipment** ○ **Incorrect Operation** ○ **Other**

PART B – PREPARER AND AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

JLYNN P. STOUT
(type or print) Preparer's Name and Title

(713) 759-3614
Area Code and Telephone Number

JPSTOUT@TEPPCO.COM
Preparer's E-mail Address

(713) 759-4790
Area Code and Facsimile Number

Authorized Signature | (type or print) Name and Title | Date | Area Code and Telephone Number

OPS Data Facsimile

PART C – ORIGIN OF THE ACCIDENT (Check all that apply)

1. Additional location information
   a. Line segment name or ID TODHUNTER TERMINA
   b. Accident on Federal land other than Outer Continental Shelf ◡ Yes ● No
   c. Is pipeline interstate? ● Yes ◡ No

Offshore: ◡ Yes ● No *(complete d if offshore)*
d. Area _____ Block # _____
State /_____/ or Outer Continental Shelf ☐

2. Location of system involved (*check all that apply*)
   ☒ Operator's Property
   ☐ Pipeline Right of Way
   ☐ High Consequence Area (HCA)?
   Describe HCA_____

3. Part of system involved in accident
   ◡ Above Ground Storage Tank
   ◡ Cavern or other below ground storage facility
   ● Pump/meter station; terminal/tank farm piping and equipment, including sumps
   ◡ Other *Specify:* _____
   ◡ Onshore **pipeline**, including valve sites
   ◡ Offshore **pipeline**, including platforms

*If failure occurred on **Pipeline**, complete items a - g:*

4. Failure occurred on
   ◡ Body of Pipe ◡ Pipe Seam ◡ Scraper Trap
   ◡ Pump ◡ Sump ◡ Joint
   ◡ Component ● Valve ◡ Metering Facility
   ◡ Repair Sleeve ◡ Welded Fitting ◡ Bolted Fitting
   ◡ Girth Weld
   ◡ Other *(specify)* _____

Year the component that failed was installed: /2003/

5. Maximum operating pressure *(MOP)*
   a. Estimated pressure at point and time of accident: 200 *PSIG*
   b. MOP at time of accident: 388 *PSIG*
   c. Did an overpressurization occur relating to the accident? ◡ Yes ● No

a. Type of leak or rupture
   ◡ Leak: ◡ Pinhole ◡ Connection Failure *(complete sec. H5)*
   ◡ Puncture, diameter *(inches)* _____
   ◡ Rupture: ◡ Circumferential – Separation
   ◡ Longitudinal – Tear/Crack, length *(inches)* _____
   Propagation Length, total, both sides *(feet)* _____
   ◡ N/A
   ◡ Other _____

b. Type of block valve used for isolation of immediate section:
Upstream: ☐ Manual ☐ Automatic ☐ Remote Control ☐ Check Valve
Downstream: ☐ Manual ☐ Automatic ☐ Remote Control ☐ Check Valve

c. Length of segment isolated _____ ft
d. Distance between valves _____ ft
e. Is segment configured for internal inspection tools? ◡ Yes ◡ No
f. Had there been an in-line inspection device run at the point of failure? ◡ Yes ◡ No ◡ Don't Know
   ◡ Not Possible due to physical constraints in the system
g. If *Yes*, type of device run (*check all that apply*)
   ☐ High Resolution Magnetic Flux tool Year run: _____
   ☐ Low Resolution Magnetic Flux tool Year run: _____
   ☐ UT tool Year run: _____
   ☐ Geometry tool Year run: _____
   ☐ Caliper tool Year run: _____
   ☐ Crack tool Year run: _____
   ☐ Hard Spot tool Year run: _____
   ☐ Other tool Year run: _____

PART D – MATERIAL SPECIFICATION

1. Nominal pipe size *(NPS)* /_____/ in.
2. Wall thickness /_____/ in.
3. Specification _____ SMYS /_____/
4. Seam type _____
5. Valve type _____
6. Manufactured by _____ in year /_____/

PART E – ENVIRONMENT

1. Area of accident
   ◡ In open ditch
   ◡ Under pavement
   ● Above ground
   ◡ Underground
   ◡ Under water
   ◡ Inside/under building
   ◡ Other _____

2. Depth of cover: _____ inches

PART F – CONSEQUENCES

1. Consequences *(check and complete all that apply)*

a.	Fatalities	Injuries
Number of operator employees:	1	0
Contractor employees working for operator:	0	0
General public:	0	0
Totals:	1	0

b. Was pipeline/segment shutdown due to leak? ● Yes ◡ No
If Yes, how long? 78 days 0 hours 0 minutes

c. Product ignited ● Yes ◡ No d. Explosion ● Yes ◡ No
e. ☐ Evacuation *(general public only)* /_____/ people
Reason for Evacuation:
◡ Precautionary by company
◡ Evacuation required or initiated by public official

f. Elapsed time until area was made safe:
/ 58 / hr. / 38 / min.

2. Environmental Impact

a. Wildlife Impact: Fish/aquatic ◡ Yes ● No; Birds ◡ Yes ● No; Terrestrial ◡ Yes ● No
b. Soil Contamination ◡ Yes ● No
If Yes, estimated number of cubic yards: _____
c. Long term impact assessment performed: ◡ Yes ● No
d. Anticipated remediation ◡ Yes ● No
If Yes, check all that apply: ☐ Surface water ☐ Groundwater ☐ Soil ☐ Vegetation ☐ Wildlife

e. Water Contamination: ◡ Yes ● No (*If Yes, provide the following*)
Amount in water _____ barrels
Ocean/Seawater ◡ No ◡ Yes
Surface ◡ No ◡ Yes
Groundwater ◡ No ◡ Yes
Drinking water ◡ No ◡ Yes (*If Yes, check below.*)
◡ Private well ◡ Public water intake

PART G – LEAK DETECTION INFORMATION

1. Computer based leak detection capability in place? ●Yes ○No

2. Was the release initially detected by? (check one):
○ CPM/SCADA-based system with leak detection
○ Static shut-in test or other pressure or leak test
● Local operating personnel, procedures or equipment
○ Remote operating personnel, including controllers
○ Air patrol or ground surveillance
○ A third party ○Other (specify) _____

3. Estimated leak duration days ____ hours **4**

PART H – APPARENT CAUSE

Important: *There are 25 numbered causes in this Part H. Check the box corresponding to the primary cause of the accident. Check one circle in each of the supplemental categories corresponding to the cause you indicate. See the instructions for guidance.*

H1 – CORROSION

1. ○External Corrosion
2. ○Internal Corrosion

(Complete items a – e where applicable.)

a. Pipe Coating
○Bare
○Coated

b. Visual Examination
○Localized Pitting
○General Corrosion
○Other _____

c. Cause of Corrosion
○Galvanic ○Atmospheric
○Stray Current ○Microbiological
○Cathodic Protection Disrupted
○Stress Corrosion Cracking
○Selective Seam Corrosion
○Other _____

d. Was corroded part of pipeline considered to be under cathodic protection prior to discovering accident?
○No ○Yes, Year Protection Started: /_____/

e. Was pipe previously damaged in the area of corrosion?
○No ○Yes **=>** Estimated time prior to accident: /_____/ *years* /_____/ *months* *Unknown* ☐

H2 – NATURAL FORCES

3. ○ Earth Movement => ○Earthquake ○ Subsidence ○ Landslide ○Other _____
4. ○ Lightning
5. ○ Heavy Rains/Floods => ○ Washouts ○ Flotation ○ Mudslide ○Scouring ○ Other _____
6. ○ Temperature => ○Thermal stress ○ Frost heave ○ Frozen components ○Other _____
7. ○ High Winds

H3 — EXCAVATION DAMAGE

8. ○ Operator Excavation Damage (including their contractors/Not Third Party)
9. ○ Third Party *(complete a-f)*

a. Excavator group
○ General Public ○ Government ○Excavator other than Operator/subcontractor

b. Type: ○Road Work ○Pipeline ○Water ○Electric ○Sewer ○Phone/Cable
○Landowner-not farming related ○Farming ○Railroad
○Other liquid or gas transmission pipeline operator or their contractor
○Nautical Operations ○Other _____

c. Excavation was: ○Open Trench ○ Sub-strata (boring, directional drilling, etc…)

d. Excavation was an ongoing activity (Month or longer) ○Yes ○No If Yes, Date of last contact /_____/

e. Did operator get prior notification of excavation activity?

○ Yes; Date received: /_____/ mo. /_____/ day /_____/ yr. ○No

Notification received from: ○One Call System ○ Excavator ○Contractor ○Landowner

f. Was pipeline marked as result of location request for excavation? ○ No ○Yes *(If Yes, check applicable items i - iv)*
i. Temporary markings: ○ Flags ○Stakes ○Paint
ii. Permanent markings: ○
iii. Marks were (check one) : ○ Accurate ○ Not Accurate
iv. Were marks made within required time? ○Yes ○No

H4 – OTHER OUTSIDE FORCE DAMAGE

10. ○ Fire/Explosion as primary cause of failure => Fire/Explosion cause: ○Man made ○Natural
11. ○ Car, truck or other vehicle not relating to excavation activity damaging pipe
12. ○ Rupture of Previously Damaged Pipe
13. ○ Vandalism

H5 – MATERIAL AND/OR WELD FAILURES

Material

14. ○ Body of Pipe => ○ Dent ○ Gouge ○ Bend ○ Arc Burn ○ Other _____

15. ○ Component => ○ Valve ○ Fitting ○ Vessel ○ Extruded Outlet ○ Other _____

16. ○ Joint => ○ Gasket ○ O-Ring ○ Threads ○ Other _____

Weld

17. ○ Butt => ○ Pipe ○ Fabrication ○ Other _____

18. ○ Fillet => ○ Branch ○ Hot Tap ○ Fitting ○ Repair Sleeve ○ Other _____

19. ○ Pipe Seam => ○ LF ERW ○ DSAW ○ Seamless ○ Flash Weld ○ HF ERW ○ SAW ○ Spiral ○ Other _____

*Complete a-g if you indicate **any** cause in part H5.*

a. Type of failure:
○ Construction Defect => ○ Poor Workmanship ○ Procedure not followed ○ Poor Construction Procedures ○ Material Defect

b. Was failure due to pipe damage sustained in transportation to the construction or fabrication site? ○ Yes ○ No

c. Was part which leaked pressure tested before accident occurred? ○ Yes, *complete d-g* ○ No

d. Date of test: /_____/ yr. /_____/ mo. /_____/ day

e. Test medium: ○ Water ○ Inert Gas ○ Other _____

f. Time held at test pressure: /_____/ hr.

g. Estimated test pressure at point of accident: _____ *PSIG*

H6 – EQUIPMENT

20. ○ Malfunction of Control/Relief Equipment => ○ Control valve ○ Instrumentation ○ SCADA ○ Communications ○ Block valve ○ Relief valve ○ Power failure ○ Other _____

21. ○ Threads Stripped, Broken Pipe Coupling => ○ Nipples ○ Valve Threads ○ Dresser Couplings ○ Other _____

22. ○ Seal Failure => ○ Gasket ○ O-Ring ○ Seal/Pump Packing ○ Other _____

H7 – INCORRECT OPERATION

23. ● Incorrect Operation

a. Type: ○ Inadequate Procedures ○ Inadequate Safety Practices ● Failure to Follow Procedures ○ Other _____

b. Number of employees involved who failed a post-accident test: drug test: /_____/ alcohol test /_____/

H8 – OTHER

24. ○ Miscellaneous, *describe:* _____

25. ○ Unknown
○ Investigation Complete ○ Still Under Investigation *(submit a supplemental report when investigation is complete)*

PART I – NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE EVENT *(Attach additional sheets as necessary)*

EMPLOYEE OPENED 2 VALVES ALMOST TO FULL POSITION AND FAILED TO CLOSE VALVES WHICH RESULTED IN RELEASE OF PROPANE.
DUE TO THE TIME FRAME FOR SETTLING THIS INCIDENT, TEPPCO IS NOW LOCATED AT:
1100 LOUISIANA STREET, HOUSTON, TX 77002-5227. JLYNN STOUT'S PHONE NUMBER IS: 713-381-3614.

NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER 1-800-424-8802
*** For Public Use ***
Information released to a third party shall comply with any
applicable federal and/or state Freedom of Information and Privacy Laws

Incident Report # 773011

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

*Report taken at 16:32 on 19-SEP-05
Incident Type: PIPELINE
Incident Cause: UNKNOWN
Affected Area:
The incident occurred on 18-SEP-05 at 22:50 local time.
Affected Medium: AIR ATMOSPHERE

SUSPECTED RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Organization: TEXAS EASTERN PRODUCTS PIPELINE CO
HOUSTON, TX 77252

Type of Organization: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

INCIDENT LOCATION

3590 YANKEE ROAD County: BUTLER
City: MONROE State: OH

RELEASED MATERIAL(S)

CHRIS Code: PRP Official Material Name: PROPANE
Also Known As:
Qty Released: 0 UNKNOWN AMOUNT

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

PROPANE RELEASED FROM TERMINAL PIPING DUE TO UNKNOWN CAUSES, INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY.

INCIDENT DETAILS

Pipeline Type: TRANSMISSION
DOT Regulated: NO
Pipeline Above/Below Ground: ABOVE
Exposed or Under Water: NO
Pipeline Covered: UNKNOWN

DAMAGES

Fire Involved:	YES	Fire Extinguished:	YES		
INJURIES:	NO	Hospitalized:		Empl/Crew:	Passenger:
FATALITIES:	YES	Empl/Crew:	1	Passenger:	Occupant:
EVACUATIONS:	NO	Who Evacuated:		Radius/Area:	
Damages:	UNKNOWN				

Closure Type		Description of Closure	Length of Closure	Direction of Closure	
Air:	N				
Road:	Y	YANKEE ROAD	18	N/S	Major Artery: N
Waterway:	N				
Track:	N				

Passengers Transferred: NO

Environmental Impact: UNKNOWN
Media Interest: HIGH Community Impact due to Material: NO

REMEDIAL ACTIONS

SHUT THE TERMINAL DOWN, ASSESSING DAMAGES
Release Secured: YES
Release Rate:
Estimated Release Duration:

WEATHER

Weather: CLEAR, ºF Wind direction: S

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES NOTIFIED

Federal:
State/Local: OH EPA, HAMILTON COUNTY EPA, OSHA
State/Local On Scene:
State Agency Number: NO REPORT #

NOTIFICATIONS BY NRC

DOT CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:38
EPA OEM (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:42
U.S. EPA V (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:39
INFO ANALYSIS & INFRA PROTECTION (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:38
NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COORD CTR (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:38
NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COORD CTR (INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION)
19-SEP-05 16:38
NOAA 1ST CLASS BB RPTS FOR OH (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:38
NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER HQ (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:43
NTSB PIPELINE (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:38
HOMELAND SEC COORDINATION CENTER (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:38
RSPA OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:41
IN DEPT ENV MNGMT ATTN: BEAUCHAMP (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:38
OH EPA ATTN: DUTY OFFICER (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:38
TSA MARITIME AND LAND (PRIMARY)
19-SEP-05 16:38

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CALLER STATED THE YANKEE ROAD IS STILL CLOSED.

*** END INCIDENT REPORT # 773011 ***

OSHA Regional News Release

U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Public Affairs **Region 5**

Region 5 News Release: 06-333-chi
Date: March 20, 2006
Contact: Brad Mitchell
Phone: 312-353-6976

OSHA Proposes $173,000 Fine at Todhunter Terminal, Monroe, Ohio, for Violations of Federal Workplace Safety Regulations

CINCINNATI -- The U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has proposed $173,000 in fines against TEPPCO Partners LP and EPCO Inc. and their successors, for unsafe operation of the Todhunter Terminal, a Monroe, Ohio, facility primarily operating to receive, store, distribute and ship refined petroleum products.

OSHA opened an accident investigation at Todhunter Terminal following a September 2005 explosion that took the life of one worker. As a result of that inspection, OSHA issued citations alleging 15 serious violations with penalties totaling $103,000 and two repeat violations with $70,000 in proposed penalties for failure to comply with federal workplace safety and health standards.

Among the serious violations cited were inadequate standard operating procedures for handling propane gas, lack of self-closing valves, lack of training for employees, and use of radio-phones that were not intrinsically safe in hazardous locations. Alleged repeat violations included failure to perform inspections and tests on equipment that controlled the flow of water and propane, lack of written mechanical integrity procedures and failure to correct items found during mandated internal compliance audits of the facility.

"Working with flammable gases requires specialized equipment and procedures," said OSHA Area Director Richard Gilgrist, Cincinnati. "When those elements are lacking, tragedies can and do occur."

OSHA last inspected the Todhunter Terminal following a 2002 accident in which a worker was fatally overcome by butane fumes. TEPPCO Partners is headquartered in Houston, Texas, as the Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Company LLC. The company has 15 working days from receipt of the citations to appeal before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure the safety and health of America's workers by setting and enforcing standards; providing training, outreach, and education; establishing partnerships; and encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health. For more information, visit www.osha.gov.

# # #

OSHA News Release - (Archived) Table of Contents

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U.S. Department of Labor | Occupational Safety & Health Administration | 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210
Telephone: 800-321-OSHA (6742) | TTY: 877-889-5627
www.OSHA.gov