

What Went Wrong 1

EXPLOSION *UNUSUAL TANK EXPLOSION*

During the construction of a new tank, the operators decided to connect the nitrogen line to the tank for safe hot job on the connected pipe line of the tank. They said they knew better; nitrogen was inert and therefore safe.

The new tank and an existing one were designed to be on balance with each other to save nitrogen (Figure 5-9), The valve to the new tank was closed but passing. Nitrogen and methanol vapours entered the tank, and the vapours were ignited by a welding job performed by a welder who was completing the inlet line to the tank. The roof was blown right off. By great good fortune, it landed on a patch of empty ground just big enough to contain it (Figure 5-10).

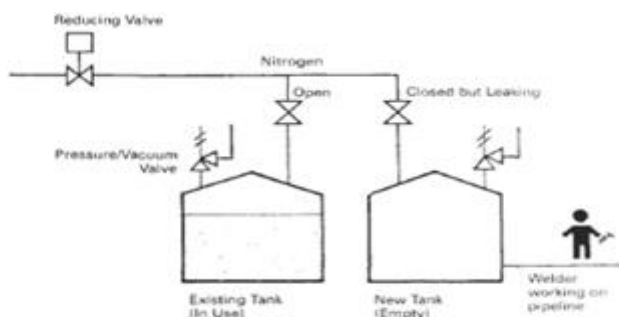


Figure 5-9. If tanks are on balance, the nitrogen entering one tank is inevitably mixed with vapor.



Figure 5-10. When an explosion occurred in a tank, the roof landed on an area just big enough to contain it.

Bringing to you the "Act-Now" solutions of process safety...

An Initiative by:

JOGI SafeTech Private Limited

A-701/702, Shreeji Arcade, B/h. Bhulka Bhavan School, Anand Mahal Road, Adajan, Surat- 395009.

Ph.: 0261 - 2746499 Mo.: +91 7405480710