



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE

SUMMARY

Report:	Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Tank Fire
Recommendation Number:	2019-01-I-TX-R3
Date Issued:	July 6, 2023
Recipient:	Intercontinental Terminals Company, LLC
New Status:	Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response
Date of Status Change:	November 9, 2023

Recommendation Text:

Install flammable gas detection systems with associated alarm functions in product storage and transfer areas at the ITC Deer Park terminal where flammable substance releases could occur. Develop and implement a response plan and operator training for actions to take when an alarm sounds.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On March 17, 2019, a loss of containment and massive fire occurred at the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) terminal facility in Deer Park, Texas. The incident resulted from the seal failure of a pump operating in conjunction with Tank 80-8, an 80,000-barrel (3.36 million gallon) above ground atmospheric storage tank containing a mixture of naphtha and butane.

The incident did not result in any injuries. However, the fire burned for three days and spread from Tank 80-8 to the other fourteen tanks located within the same containment area. All fifteen tanks were destroyed. On March 22, 2019, the containment area wall partially collapsed releasing approximately 500,000 barrels (21 million gallons) of a mixture of petroleum products, firefighting foam, and water into Tucker Bayou and adjacent waterways including the Houston Ship Channel.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including ineffective mechanical integrity and maintenance practices for the facility's product transfer pumps, a lack of safety systems at the facility's 80s tank farm, and a lack of regulatory coverage under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) Process Safety Management (PSM) standard and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Risk Management Program (RMP) rule for the contents of Tank 80-8 at the time of the incident. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued five recommendations to ITC. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2019-01-I-TX-R3.

B. Response to the Recommendation

ITC notified the CSB that the company is continuing its program to install lower explosive limit (LEL) monitors/flammable gas detectors throughout the Deer Park terminal. In addition, ITC

stated they updated the operations procedures and related training to include actions to take when an LEL alarm sounds. The CSB requested additional documentation in order to be able to evaluate the recommendation for closure.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change CSB Recommendation No. 2019-01-I-TX-R3 to: “Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response.”