



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Cuisine Solutions Ammonia Release
Recommendation Number:	2024-03-I-VA-R6
Date Issued:	September 23, 2025
Recipient:	Cuisine Solutions, Inc., Sterling Site
New Status:	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	Not Applicable – Initial Status

Recommendation Text:

Add an alarm or alarms specific to ammonia releases, so that workers can properly respond to a release. The alarm response should be documented in the updated Emergency Action Plan, and may include multiple distinct alarms and responses, such as one for shelter-in-place and one for evacuation.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On July 31, 2024, anhydrous ammonia was discharged from a pressure relief device in the refrigeration system of the Cuisine Solutions, Inc. facility in Sterling, VA. During the evacuation, workers were exposed to ammonia and four were seriously injured.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including discharging liquid ammonia from pressure relief devices to atmosphere and a lack of emergency preparedness.

As a result of these findings, the CSB issued four recommendations to the Cuisine Solutions, Inc., Sterling Site. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2024-03-I-VA-R6.