



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Dow Louisiana Operations Explosions
Recommendation Number:	2023-03-I-LA-R2
Date Issued:	February 23, 2026
Recipient:	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
New Status:	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	Not Applicable – Initial Status

Recommendation Text:

Update NFPA 350 Guide for Safe Confined Space Entry and Work to provide guidance on how to ensure that vessels that have undergone confined space entry are left clean and ready for startup after the entries are completed.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On July 14, 2023, a series of explosions and fires occurred at the Dow Chemical Company's facility in Plaquemine, LA. The incident was caused by the inadvertent mixing of ethylene oxide and air within process equipment. The incident resulted in the release of 31,000 pounds of ethylene oxide, a shelter-in-place order for the local community, and significant property damage to the facility.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including deficiencies in vessel closure, inerting system control, and pressure relief system design. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued two recommendations to the National Fire Protection Association. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2023-03-I-LA-R2.