



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE

SUMMARY

Report:	BP – Husky Oregon Chemical Release and Fire
Recommendation Number:	2022-01-I-OH-R3
Date Issued:	June 24, 2024
Recipient:	Ohio Refining Company
New Status:	Closed – Acceptable Action
Date of Status Change:	May 13, 2025

Recommendation Text:

Develop and implement a policy or revise existing policy that clearly provides employees with the authority to stop work that is perceived to be unsafe until the employer can resolve the matter. This should include detailed procedures and regular training on how employees would exercise their stop work authority. Emphasis should be placed on exercising this authority during abnormal situations, including alarm floods.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On September 20, 2022, a vapor cloud ignited at the BP-Husky Refining LLC (“BP Husky”) refinery in Oregon, Ohio. The vapor cloud formed when flammable liquid naphtha was intentionally released from a pressurized vessel to the ground in response to an abnormal situation. Two employees were fatally injured. BP Husky estimated that over 23, 000 pounds of naphtha was released during the event, and that \$597 million in damage was incurred.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including inadequate safeguarding to prevent liquid overflow, ineffective abnormal situation management, and failure to learn from previous incidents. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued four recommendations to the Ohio Refining Company LLC. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2022-01-I-OH-R3.

B. Response to the Recommendation

The Ohio Refining Company (ORC) notified the CSB that a procedure for stop work authority was developed and implemented. This procedure was created with input from a diverse group which included the United Steel Workers (USW) local union representatives. The procedure includes examples of situations where exercising stop work authority should be considered including during abnormal situations.

Training on the new procedure was provided to refinery employees and contractors. Additionally, informational cards and posters have been distributed. This training will be included in new hire orientation for refinery employees and contractors going forward. Refresher

training will also be provided on a biennial basis. Upon review of the information provided, the CSB concluded that ORC's actions satisfy all elements of the recommendation.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2022-01-I-OH-R3 to: "Closed – Acceptable Action."