



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

Report:	Partridge-Raleigh Oilfield Explosion and Fire
Recommendation Number:	2006-7-I-MS-R4
Date Issued:	June 12, 2007
Recipient:	Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Jackson MS Area Office
New Status:	Closed – Acceptable Alternative Action
Date of Status Change:	April 24, 2017

Recommendation Text:

Implement a Local Emphasis Program (LEP) to inspect companies in the oil and gas production and extraction sector.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

A fire and explosion occurred at the Partridge-Raleigh Oilfield in Raleigh, MS, on June 5, 2006. Three contractor workers from Stringer's Oilfield Services, Inc., died and another was seriously injured. The workers were preparing to weld pipes attached to oil production tanks. Welding sparks ignited flammable vapors from inside two adjacent tanks which led to an explosion. Key findings in the investigation found a lack of safe work procedures for hot work and working on elevated surfaces.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's (CSB) investigation found that had OSHA requirements and precautions been followed, the explosion could have been prevented. OSHA had not inspected Partridge-Raleigh Oilfield or Stringer's Oilfield Services, Inc., in the three years prior to the explosion, This is also true of the nearly 6,000 oilfields in Mississippi in the preceding five years. Thus, a recommendation for a local emphasis program (LEP) pertaining to oil and gas production and extraction facilities was issued by the CSB to OSHA's Jackson, MS, Area Office.

B. Response to the Recommendation

OSHA declined to initiate an LEP for its Jackson, MS, Area office due to a lack of fatalities in the oil and gas sector in this area of the country. However, during the time since the CSB recommendation was issued, OSHA has taken the following alternative approaches to protect oil and gas industry workers:

- In conjunction with its alliance partners, OSHA developed hazard alerts and fact sheets and held seminars and safety stand downs to raise awareness of hazards faced in oil and gas industry sector. For example in September of 2016, the OSHA/National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)/National Service, Transmission, Exploration & Production Safety (STEPS) Network Alliance issued a Hazard Alert entitled: "Fatalities Associated with Hot Work on Oilfield Tanks, Tankers and related equipment." This alert

addresses the hot work related hazards the CSB identified in its investigation of the Partridge-Raleigh Oilfield incident.

- In December of 2016, OSHA issued uniform enforcement guidance for the upstream oil and gas sector which assists its compliance officers in prioritizing hazards and directs them to applicable OSHA standards that can be applied during inspections of oil and gas sites. One of the hazards addressed in this document is hot work and the need to verify compliance with various provisions contained in OSHA's welding and cutting standard (29 CFR 1910.252).

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based on the above actions taken by OSHA, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2006-7-I-MS-R4 to: "**Closed—Acceptable Alternative Action.**"