

EXPLOSIVES AND DANGEROUS GOODS DIVISION

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FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PHONE 3259966

EXPLOSIVES AND DANGEROUS GOODS ACT 1961-1984

SUMMARY OF ACCIDENT REPORTS 1984

EXPLOSIVES

FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

DANGEROUS GOODS



DEPARTMENT OF MINES WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ACCIDENT REPORTS - 1984

EXPLOSIVES

FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

DAINGEROUS GOODS (ROAD TRANSPORT)

INTRODUCTION

1984 saw 31 reported accidents in the above categories including 14 spillages of dangerous goods. The requirement to report dangerous goods transport accidents only came into effect from 1st March and these reports are only of incidents from that date. Of the remaining 17 reports, 12 related to accidents involving flammable liquids.

The brief details contained herein are published for public information and to draw attention to avenues where increased awareness may reduce the number of incidents and in turn help prevent injury or death and property damage.

This document is the first of its type to be issued by this Division. It is anticipated that similar publications will be prepared every 6 - 12 months; probably in an expanded format. If you have any suggestions or comments on additional information which you believe should be incorporated into future reports, forward them to the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Division.



K Price
ACTING DIRECTOR EXPLOSIVES DIVISION

15 May 1985

EXPLOSIVES

- July 6 Fly rock damaged several vehicles in central Bunbury when blast mats moved during delayed firing in a drainage trench.
- September 2 A Quinlup resident received a severe hand injury when he found a short length of fuse with a crimped detonator at the local tip. He decided to light the fuse and the detonator exploded in his hand.
- September 26 A traveller attempted to destroy 3 sticks of gellignite which he had in his possession. He placed the explosives in a roadside rubbish bin on the Eyre Highway and was subsequently seriously injured in one leg by a flying metal fragment.
- October 1 A Boulder resident received hand injuries whilst playing with a detonator at his home.
- October 10 A child used a lighted match on 4 detonators he had found. Serious eye and hand injuries resulted from the explosion which also involved another child.

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FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

- January 3 A fibre glass cruiser was gutted by fire in Success Harbour following refuelling with 217 litres of petrol. An explosion followed the attempt to start the motor immediately afterwards.
- January 17 A garden shed burst into flames in Girrawheen. The shed stored 3 lawn mowers each of which contained some fuel. The cause is unknown but children had been playing on the shed roof just prior to the fire.
- January 27 Three children set fire to a petrol drum at South Hedland rubbish tip resulting in an explosion. All the children received severe burns.
- January 27 The licensed drum depot at Royal Perth Hospital was destroyed by fire. No cause has been determined.
- February 2 A petrol pump at a Kambalda Service Station caught fire whilst petrol was being delivered to a car. One person was slightly burned and the fire was extinguished using a 9kg DCP extinguisher on site.
- March 3 Motor spirit was detected in a storm water drain in Bunbury. Subsequent tests indicated an underground tank was leaking. The tank was removed and replaced.
- June 15 An explosion and fire occurred whilst bitumen was being loaded at North Fremantle. The fire self extinguished and no serious injuries resulted.

- June 23 A fire broke out in the oil store of a Graylands Service Station. Spilt 2-stroke mix, thought to have leaked from a pump onto the floor of the oil store, was probably ignited by a refrigerator motor. The Service Station building was destroyed.
- June 24 A motor cycle caught fire whilst refuelling at a Glengarry Self Serve site. The emergency stop system was activated and the fire extinguished using a 4.5kg DCP extinguisher on site. The motor cycle was driven away later.
- July 17 A non conductive hose was inadvertently used during a fuel tank calibration in Perth. A mixture of petrol and distillate in a 4000 litre compartment is believed to have mixed with air in the explosive range. A static charge of sufficient strength was generated and a spark ignited the mixture. There was a minor explosion and no fire. The tank was undamaged.
- July 19 A kerosine dipping tank in an Osborne Park factory caught fire. The kerosine was heated by an electric immersion heater but no definite source of ignition could be found. The fire was extinguished by an employee.
- October 5 An overfilled ISO tank container spilt methyl ethyl ketone at Kwinana during discharge. The MEK sprayed when the compartment was opened and an employee inhaled some vapour.

DANGEROUS GOODS
(ROAD TRANSPORT)

March 2 Sodium Cyanide, Class 6.1, UN No. 1869, P.G. 1

A 200 litre drum of sodium cyanide fell from a moving vehicle at Cloverdale. The drum split open and the cyanide was scattered on the road. The spillage was contained and transferred to another container for disposal. Part of Hardey Road was closed for the duration of the emergency.

A breach of Reg. 502(4), which requires the load to be secured, contributed to the cause of the accident. There were no injuries.

March 6 Simazine, Not classified dangerous goods.

A flat-top semi-trailer carrying 20 litre containers of herbicide lost 150 packages from its load of 912, at Mirrabooka. Several containers were damaged resulting in a spill. Sand was used to clear the spill and disposal effected after consultation with the Public Health Department. Police diverted traffic during the incident.

March 13 Sodium Hydroxide Solution, Class 8,
UN. No. 1824, P.G. II.

An 8 tonne table top truck lost five drums of 30% sodium hydroxide solution from a load with a total mass of 132kg at Bunbury. The solution was restrained by a rope only. The local Fire Brigade hosed down the area and rendered it safe.

March 15 Petrol, Class 3, UN No. 1271, Bulk.

A petrol tanker and a private car collided in Forrestfield when the car driver lost control of his vehicle. The tanker was disabled but the liquid carrying compartments remained intact. The product was transferred to another tanker using an air driven pump and mobile compressor. Roads were closed and two persons were evacuated from an adjacent dwelling.

May 10 Toxipest Pesticide (10 litres), Class 3, Subrisk 6, UN No. 2762, P.G. II

Treflan Herbicide (60 litres), Class 3, UN No. 1993, P.G. II

Several 20 litre steel drums fell from a semi trailer at a location 18km East of Lake Grace when the load shifted during transport. 10 litres of Toxipest and 60 litres of Treflan was spilled. Police attended and reported the load to include 256 x 2 litre drums of Treflan and 112 x 20 litre drums of Toxipest together with foodstuffs in open crates. The spilled products were allowed to evaporate and sand placed over the area. Contaminated foodstuffs were destroyed. Foodstuffs and poisons must not be conveyed together.

August 8 Barrel Herbicide, Class 6, Subrisk 3, UN No. 2903, P.G. II

Hoegrass Herbicide, Class 6, Subrisk 3, UN No. 2903, P.G. II

MCPA 50 Herbicide, Class 6, UN No. 3000, P.G. III

Four x 20 litre drums of the above herbicides fell from a rigid frame vehicle on a bend in Abernethy Road. The driver was forced to

brake heavily to avoid a collision. 80 litres of a total load of 1860 litres of mixed herbicides were spilled. The goods were not a pollution hazard and they were hosed into drains by the Fire Brigade. In this incident the drums were not properly secured and the vehicle carried no markings. A roadworthiness certificate had not been issued nor was the mandatory \$500 000 public liability insurance taken out.

September 21 Combine 110 herbicide, Class 6, Subrisk 3,
UN No. 2903, P.G. III

Four of 32 x 20 litre drums of Combine 110 herbicide fractured at seams when a semi-trailer overturned on a bend at Forrestfield. One litre is estimated to have spilled. Clean up was supervised by a Public Health official who also arranged disposal. 14 people were hospitalised for minor treatment and one was detained overnight with nausea.

September 25 8-660 cleaning compound, Class 6, Subrisk 8,
UN No. 2927, P.G. II

A semi-trailer driver noted that product was leaking from one of 10 x 205 litre drums whilst parked in a truck bay 5km south of Geraldton. Leakage was from a split at the base of the drum. Police and Fire Brigade attended and a clean up and disposal of the faulty drum arranged.

Disposal of pollutants such as this should only be arranged by consultation with the Competent Authority - the Public Health Dept.

October 9 Sodium Cyanide, Class 6, UN No. 1689, P.G. I

4 x 50kg packages of sodium cyanide fell from the rear of a vehicle carrying 24 x 50kg packages together with other materials. One

package split spilling between 10kg and 20kg of cyanide. Police and Fire Brigade personnel attended and cleaned up in accordance with telephone advice given by Public Health and Mines Department officers.

Several breaches of the Regulations occurred which contributed to the spillage not the least of which was the location of the cyanide at the rear of the vehicle.

November 19 Valbazen - Not Dangerous Goods

The Waste Disposal Engineer, Public Health Department reported on this incident. A 20 litre drum of Valbrazen sheep drench fell from a vehicle and spilled approximately half of the contents. The driver contacted the Public Health Department after he had removed the damaged drum to his premises. The remaining substance was disposed of under the supervision of the Public Health Department officer.

No emergency services attended at the scene of the spillage.

December 3 Automotive Paint Primer, Class 3, UN No. 1263, P.G. II

A rigid frame truck conveying 31 x 20 litre pails of highly flammable primer lost 11 pails whilst negotiating the western circus of the Perth Causeway. The load had been secured with bindertwine string, metal edging and rope. Sand and absorber were used to clean the spill, and Fire Brigade officers were on hand in case of fire.

In this instance the method of securing the load was unsatisfactory.

December 10 Bulk Bitumen - Not Dangerous Goods

Bunbury Police reported attending a vehicle roll over. The bitumen tanker involved was not carrying dangerous goods and no further action was necessary.

December 10 Diesel Fuel Oil - Not Dangerous Goods

A transport company reported that one of its road trains had overturned on the Teifer road while returning empty to Port Hedland. Two demountable tanks were damaged requiring repair and pressure testing in accordance with AS 2016 - 1982 and AS 2017 - 1977. No dangerous goods were involved and no further action required.

December 19 Polymeric diPhenyl methane di-isocyanate, Class 6, UN No. 2207, P.G. III

A 5 litre drum had apparently been damaged in transit and was discovered as damaged whilst being unloaded from a vehicle in a Kewdale transport premises. Company management had a good knowledge of the product and had acted responsibly with respect to the incident. Firemen wearing breathing apparatus removed the drum to a location outside the building where it was placed in a sand filled container and subsequently disposed of under the direction of the Public Health Department.