

# ACCIDENT REPORT FATAL FACTS

## ACCIDENT SUMMARY No. 72

Accident Type:	Explosion	
Weather Conditions:	Clear	
Type of Operation:	Construction	
Size of Work Crew:	2	
Competent Person on Site:	Yes	
Safety and Health Program in Effect:	Yes	
Was the Worksite Inspected Regularly by the Employer:	Yes	
Training and Education Provided:	Yes	
Employee Job Title:	Iron worker	
Age & Sex:	45-Male	
Experience at this Type of Work:	20 years	
Time on Project:	2 Hours	

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

Propane gas was being used to fuel a portable heater (blow torch). The torch flamed out, allowing gas to gather in the bilge area of a construction barge. The accumulated gas exploded with great force, killing the worker.

### INSPECTION RESULTS

As a result of its investigation, OSHA issued citations for two serious violations of OSHA standards.

### ACCIDENT PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The employer must:

1. Take precautions to provide sufficient ventilation to ensure proper combustion when operating portable heaters/blow torches in confined spaces, in accordance with Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1926.154(a)(2).
2. Ensure that portable heaters/blow torches are equipped with automatic shut-off devices to stop the flow of gas in the event of flame failure, in accordance with 29 CFR 1926.153(h)(8).

### SOURCES OF HELP

- OSHA Construction Standards (Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1926) includes all OSHA job safety and health rules and regulations covering construction, may be purchased from the Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800, fax (202) 512-2250, Order No. 869-032-00107-3, (\$31.00).
- OSHA-funded free consultation services listed in telephone directories under U.S. Labor Department or under the state government section where states administer their own OSHA programs.
- OSHA Safety and Health Training Guidelines for Construction, Volume III (Available from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161; phone (703) 487-4650; Order no. PB-239-312/AS; Cost \$25.) to help construction employers establish a training program.
- Courses in construction safety are offered by the OSHA Training Institute, 1555 Times

Drive, Des Plaines, IL 60018; phone (847) 297-4810.

- OSHA regulations, documents and technical information also are available on CD-ROM, which may be purchased from the Government Printing Office, phone (202) 512-1800 or fax (202) 512-2250, order number 729-13-00000-5; cost \$43 annually; \$17 quarterly. That information also is on the Internet World Wide Web at <http://www.osha.gov/>

**NOTE:** The case here described was selected as being representative of fatalities caused by improper work practices. No special emphasis or priority is implied nor is the case necessarily a recent occurrence. The legal aspects of the incident have been resolved, and the case is now closed.