



ALASKA FACE Facts

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health-Section of CHEMS
Occupational Injury Prevention Program

Welder Killed in Tank Explosion

A 44-year-old male welder was killed while welding on a 55-foot wastewater recovery tank. At the time of the incident, the victim was in the process of welding a pipe onto an empty tank. Residual material from inside the tank ignited and the tank exploded. Fire and emergency medical services arrived and located the victim's body outside of the building across the road.

Based on the findings of the investigation, to prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- **Ensure that a competent person inspects all hot work sites and tests conditions within containment vessels and associated structures.**
- **Ensure that structures contaminated with organic materials are never inerted with steam.**
- **Ensure workers are capable of recognizing and avoiding hazardous situations.**



To view previous FACE reports please visit the Occupational Injury Prevention Program website:
http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury

or

Call or fax your request to:
907-269-5221 (phone) 907-269-5236 (fax)

To receive the latest FACE updates via the Internet please send an email to djilly@health.state.ak.us