



# The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

## Overview Investigation Update

Contra Costa County CAER Group, Inc  
8 Dec. 2016



# CSB MISSION and VISSION

## Mission

- Drive chemical safety change through independent investigations to protect people and the environment
- Vision
- A nation safer from chemical disasters



## About CSB

- Independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents.
- Board members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.
- CSB conducts root cause investigations of chemical accidents at fixed industrial facilities.
- The agency does not issue fines or citations, but does make recommendations to plants, regulatory agencies such as to OSHA, EPA, industry organizations, and labor groups.



## Recommendations

- Recommendations are the CSB's primary tool for achieving positive change. CSB's success depends on:
  - Evidence-based, effective, and actionable recommendations
  - Recipients implementing recommendations





## CSB

- CSB conducts root cause investigations of chemical accidents at fixed industrial facilities.





## Elements of the Drivers of Critical Safety Change Program

- Identify the most important chemical safety improvement goals of the CSB
- Pursue implementation of changes most likely to advance chemical safety
- Focus special advocacy efforts by Board Members and staff
- Inform deployment decisions and allocation of resources



## Drivers of Critical Safety Change List Considerations

- The nature of the risk and estimated extent of exposure to workers and offsite populations;
- Previous loss and potential for future loss of life or property, illnesses, and environmental damage;
- Very high risks disproportionately affecting discrete but highly identifiable groups of individuals (e.g., a narrow sector of industry or certain specialized workers facing a very high probability of risk);
- Strong concern of important sectors of a community, civic leaders or the like; and
- The possibility that advocacy will help bring about change.



An independent federal agency investigating chemical accidents to protect workers, the public, and the environment.

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## Drivers of Critical Chemical Safety Change



OSHA COMBUSTIBLE DUST STANDARD

MODERNIZE U.S. PROCESS SAFETY MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PLANNING

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE







# Key Emergency Response Reforms

- EPA
- OSHA
- CalEPA





## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- EPA has issued a Proposed Rule “Accident Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs under the Clean Air Act, Section 112(r)(7)”
- PR includes more robust requirements for information sharing, communication and coordination on emergency planning between facility and local emergency response officials.



## Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

- Plans to revise 29 CFR 1910.156 to replace fire brigade rule with a broader rule.
- Regulation would intend to set requirements for planning, training, worker health and fitness, and vehicle operations.





## California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA)

- Cal/EPA has proposed two new rules for refineries in its California Accidental Release Prevention Program
- Would require emergency response coordination between refineries and unified program agencies.





# Emergency Response and Preparedness

## Questions and Comments





# Emergency Response and Preparedness

## Thank You

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