

We are



Hello,

January 2020

[Urgent News Alert - Explosion in Spain](#)

There has been a serious explosion at an ethanol plant in Spain which has resulted in fatalities and injuries. This issue of Process Safety Dispatch features an article on explosions associated with ethanol production which was written BEFORE news of the explosion in Spain emerged. We have included some links to the Spain explosion in our [website article](#).

Process Safety Dispatch

In this Issue

- **Urgent News Flash**
- **Safety Feature: Can Computer-based Process Safety Training be Effective?**
- **Safety Feature: Explosions Associated with Ethanol Production**
- **Free On Demand Webinars**

Can Computer-based Process Safety Training be Effective?

Deep down, we all kind of know it. Hours spent on computer-based training is not quite the same thing as 'live' training given by a specialist, with questions sessions, group discussions and perhaps even on-plant visits to really drive home



understanding. So, is this deep-down feeling justified or are the older ones among us just a bit stuck in the past? The question we pose is 'can computer-based training in process safety ever be as effective as good process safety training delivered by a human being?'

This is an important question. OSHA requires (and it's the law) that employers provide training to workers who face hazards on the job. There is also a tendency in this decade to turn almost naturally to Information Technology (IT) and The Internet for almost everything, but is this the right thing to do?

Let's be a bit more specific before we launch into the answers. Let's agree that training for competency in Process Safety - as contrasted with "awareness" training - *should result in a mastery of the subject such that the trained individual can contribute effectively to process hazards identification and risk reduction*. We would argue that this is a very reasonable objective to have for any organization that commissions training for its staff.

So, can computer-based training ever be as effective as providing the required 'mastery' as good-old process safety training **by a human....?** *Continue reading...*

Tailored Training



- In-Company Training
- Mentoring Programs
- Organizational Process Safety Competency Gap Filling
- Online and Computer-based training
- Public Courses

Explosions Associated with Ethanol Production

Would you be surprised to learn that there have been over 20 explosions/fires associated with the production of ethanol over the past 10 years?

One such explosion and fire occurred in June of 2019 at a Biorefinery facility in Indiana.

"We got really lucky." The local Fire Chief said. "A lot of the employees were at lunch at the time so there weren't a lot of people back there." The explosion, which hospitalized 2 truck drivers, took place **during grain unloading** (grain dust explosion). It was reported that damage to facilities was likely to be about \$1m. [Ref. 1]



Bio-Ethanol production and distribution is big business, with over 200 registered refineries in the USA alone, mainly in the Midwest and Upper Midwest, producing billions of gallons of mainly denatured ethanol. One of the major feedstocks in bioethanol production is grain – which certainly participated (grain dust) in the Indiana explosion reported here.

In this article, we look at explosions involving ethanol production and distribution. Let's see how we can have fewer ethanol related explosions....[Continue Reading...](#)

Expert Consulting



- Dust Explosion Prevention & Mitigation
- Control of Static Electricity
- Hazardous (Electrical) Area Classification
- Process Hazard Analysis
- Process Safety Management
- Fire and Explosion Hazard Assessment
- Incident Investigation
- Organizational Process Safety Competency Assessment

If you would like a quote for any of our testing and/or consulting services, you can do so by clicking the button below, completing the form and submitting. We will get back to you shortly with your proposal.

[REQUEST A QUOTE](#)

Free On Demand Webinars

Combustible Dust Hazards: Assessment, Prevention and Protection Including the Requirements of NFPA 652 [watch]

Electrostatic Hazards in Processing Industry: The Nature of the Problem and Practical Measures for its Control [watch]

Fire and Explosion Hazards: How to Identify and Control Them in Your Process [watch]

If you received this newsletter from a colleague and would like to sign up to receive our newsletters in the future -- Sign up [Here](#).