

We are



Hello,

November 2020

Process Safety Dispatch

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From Texas City to Beirut via Tianjin...



August 4th, 2020

At Stonehouse we are sometimes brutally reminded why we work as process safety consultants. On August 4th, 2020, much of the heart of Beirut, Lebanon was destroyed. Shocked citizens the world over would see incredible images on their TV screens showing what can happen when industrial facilities fail catastrophically. Yet with all the expressed horror, surprised commentary, and questioning of what happened and who was to blame, few people took to the history books to discover the litany of information covering **at least 34 explosions** and fires involving **ammonium nitrate**. We take a quick look at just 3 of these and recommend a paper recently published in Process Safety Progress [ref 1] by one of our Stonehouse process safety specialists, Richard W Prugh.

As we say, 'From Texas City to Beirut' via France, Spain, Mexico, China and.....

Understanding Ammonium Nitrate

Ammonium nitrate is an interesting substance. It is quite stable at ambient temperatures, yet under certain circumstances it can thermally decompose explosively when heated.

[Read More](#)

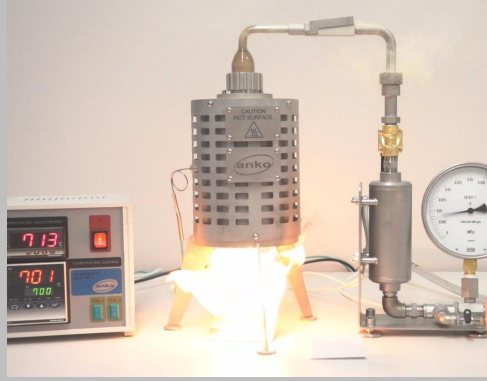


Expert Consulting

- 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

Specialist Laboratory Testing

- Combustible Dust Testing
- Electrostatic Testing
- Self-Heating / Thermal Instability Testing
- Flammability Testing of Gases & Vapors



Combustible Dust Explosion Testing: Why do it now?



At Stonehouse, as we continue to invest in laboratory staff and more combustible dust explosion testing equipment, it's clear to us that more and more companies are seeing the benefit in evaluating the fire and explosion properties of the powders they handle and process; this as part of their normal process safety practices. In this piece we examine why the demand for testing is increasing and what companies are doing with the test results they get.

So why do processing companies invest in obtaining dust fire and explosion test data? Here are 3 answers to start out...

1. NFPA652 requires it!
2. Data allows you to identify previously unidentified hazards with your materials
3. Data allows you to save money by cost effective spending on explosion prevention and protection equipment

Let's take a look in a little more detail at these answers...

[Read More](#)

If you would like a quote for any of our testing and/or consulting services, please click on the button below. We will get back to you promptly 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 [\[watch\]](#)

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