

Publication of Interim Report of the Pipe Burst Accident at Omi Plant

Our deepest thoughts and prayers are with the worker who lost their life in the pipe burst accident that occurred at Denka's Omi Plant (Itoigawa, Niigata Prefecture) on June 14, 2023, and with the worker's surviving family during this harrowing time. We also offer our heartfelt sympathies to the workers who were injured. We would like to deeply apologize to residents around the plant, our business partners and other stakeholders, for the inconvenience and great concerns this incident has caused.

Since the accident occurred, we have fully cooperated with the relevant authorities in investigating the cause of the accident. On July 11 of this year, we established the Accident Investigative Committee consisting of external experts and specialists with an aim of conducting a more expert investigation, looking into the cause more exhaustively and formulating measures to prevent any recurrence.

The Committee has met seven times and proceeded with its investigation, and the direct cause of the accident has been identified recently. Based on this cause, measures to prevent recurrence have been proposed and summarized in the form of the "Interim Report on the Investigation of the Chloroprene Monomer Production Equipment Accident". See the next page of this publication for the outline of interim report. The full text of the report (Japanese) is on our official website.

The Accident Investigative Committee will continue to discuss other factors that led to the accident and measures to prevent recurrence. The final report will be completed around January 2024, and upon receiving the committee's report, we will disclose it.

[Reference: Previous Press Release Related to the Announcement (on Denka's Official Website)]
July 11, 2023

"Formation of Accident Investigative Committee Concerning the Pipe Burst Accident at Omi Plant"

https://www.denka.co.jp/eng/storage/news/pdf/457/20230711_denka_investigation_committee_en.pdf

June 14, 2023 "Notice Concerning an Accident at Omi Plant"

https://www.denka.co.jp/eng/storage/news/pdf/454/20230614_denka_omi_en.pdf

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[Interim Report: Outline]

On June 14, 2023, one construction subcontractor worker died and two were injured at a chloroprene monomer 5MC plant when the elbow of a pipe for the transfer of chloroprene monomer burst while the pipe was being cut with an (electric) saber saw to replace a part of the pipe with a newly manufactured pipe.

The direct cause of the accident was found to be the generation of CP-NO_x dimers, a combination of chloroprene monomers and nitrogen oxide. A CP-NO_x dimer is a substance that produces heat of around 100 °C and is not hazardous in a moist state. But we learned that the substance becomes more hazardous in a dry state.

Prior to the accident, liquid was removed from the piping and it was washed with water to remove hazards before construction before a dry nitrogen blow was performed to prevent chemical burn that might result from dripping liquids. This dried the CP-NO_x dimers. Subsequently, cutting the pipe with the saber saw to replace the pipe generated heat which caused the CP-NO_x dimers to catch fire. The fire gradually spread to other CP-NO_x dimers stuck to the inner wall of the pipe, leading to the pipe bursting near the upper part of an elbow where many dimers had adhered. This is an assessment of how the accident occurred.

To prevent recurrence, we will thoroughly work to keep CP-NO_x dimers moist. To increase safety, we will consider operating conditions and operation management to suppress the generation of CP-NO_x dimers. In addition, we will seek to reinforce our subcontractors' safety management and our own safety management company-wide.