

FACTS Database with hazardous materials used for industrial safety maintained by the Department of Industrial Safety of TNO Coded Accident Abstract		Accident Nr. 20551
<b>Identification</b>		
<u>Type</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Text</u>
Class	* * *	-
Abstr	Extended abstract english	-
Address	Ri	
Adate	2004	
Time		1530
Activ	Processing	-
Loctn	Chemical factory	-
Surr	Residential quarter	-
Dtype	Plastics	-
Dchem	Plastics (prod.)	Plastic phtalic anhydride (pa)/Maleic anhydride
Dprod		Chemicals used in plastics
<b>Cause</b>		
<u>Type</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Text</u>
Cause	Technical-failure	Machine overheated
<b>Description</b>		
<u>Type</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Text</u>
Occur	Overheating	Overheated
Eqinv	Other equipment	Machine
Occur	Ignition	-
Occur	Fire	Major fire
Dtime		8/h
Hflam		50/m
Eqinv	Plant	Chemical plant
Occur	Explosion	At least 5 explosions
Occur	Release	From
Eqinv	Tank	-
Chem	Maleic anhydride	Maleic anhydride (ma)
State	Powder	-
Occur	Ignition	-
Occur	Fire	Intensity increased and threatened
Eqinv	Tank	Tanks
Chem	Ammonia	-
State	Liquid	-
Occur	Smoke-emission	Column of black smoke
Occur	Evacuation	-
Hminv		>400
Area		1/Km
Occur	Pollution/Contamination	-
Envdm	Air/Atmosphere	-
Envdm	Ground-water	Water wells
Occur	Block-of-system	Cut off power and shut down gas pipeline
Occur	Collapse/Destroy	Destroyed
Eqdm	Buildings/Housings	5 nearby homes
Occur	Fire fighting/Emergency response	>100 firefighters and police battled blaze
Fatals	Worker	4
Injurs		66
Text	Worker	>10
Text	Citizen/Resident	>10
Wdng	Burns	Severe burns
Wdng	Irritation	Eyes irritation

Treatm	Hospital	13 (1 treated and died after 8/Days)
Scene		
<i>Type</i>	<i>Value</i>	<i>Text</i>
Scene		Overheated machine in chemical plant caused major
Scene		Fire, several explosions, release of maleic
Scene		Anhydride, pollution of air, evacuation, closure
Scene		Of pipeline and 70 casualties

#### EXTENDED ABSTRACT ENGLISH

The death toll in the devastating fire at a chemical plant increased to three after another victim died from severe burns in hospital. The 36-year-old man sustained burns to more than 90% of his body. The man was one of the 13 victims being treated in a hospital, who suffered more severe burns in the fire. He lived for eight days after the fire that followed a chemical tank explosion. While he was hospitalized, he was conscious and was able to move his hands and feet. His condition worsened after doctors removed the respirator. Two days before his death, he was put on the respirator again, but it was unable to save his life. Three other victims died hours after the fire engulfed the chemical plant. Among them the plant and production director.

Fifty-six others were injured. Most of whom suffered serious burns.

Police evacuated hundreds residents within 1/km of the plant as people complained of eye irritations from a huge pall of smoke. More than 100 firemen and police battled to put out the blaze. There was the sound of at least five explosions before a column of black smoke rose into the sky. The blasts were sparked by a fire in several tanks. Flames were 50/m high and smoke could be seen several kilometers away. The fire caused a leak of maleic anhydride from the top of a tank, which ignited, increasing the intensity of the fire. The fire was also threatening some ammonia tanks. The blaze destroyed at least 5 nearby homes. More than 50 fire trucks were deployed at the height of the fire but only masked firefighters could approach the blaze. The state electricity company cut power to the area while the company shut down a pipeline that supplied gas to the industrial complex. The fire was caused by an overheated machine. The resulting fire lasted until 2330 hours while thick black smoke covered the sky until 1800 hours.

The plant employs some 450 people and makes chemicals used in plastics.

Hundreds of workers are taking indefinite vacations.

The cause of the explosion are currently being investigated by the police. So far, it has been discovered that the communities living in the surrounding area, have complained about water contamination in their wells. The water has a foul smell and when used for bathing the community reports it causes itchiness.