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Cleanup winding down on Vista Hazmat incident

By: North County Times | Friday, May 11, 2007 11:42 AM PDT ∞

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VISTA ---- Twenty people were taken to area hospitals this morning after two caustic chemicals were mixed at Prudential Overall Supply, an industrial laundry facility in the 2400 block of Ash Street in Vista, fire officials said.

No employees appeared to be seriously injured. They waited patiently on a nearby curb while paramedics examined them before transport. Some chatted on cellular phones.

The problem was caused by a mixture of bleach and sulphuric acid, said Vista Fire Department spokesman Adrian Abel. Workers complained of an odor immediately after the chemicals were mixed, he said. They notified a safety coordinator who immediately evacuated the building, Abel said.

When the two chemicals mix, they produce chlorine gas, which is an irritant to the respiratory system and skin, said Fire Captain Michael de Guzman of the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Hazardous Materials Team. While the gas can be fatal at high levels if inhaled for a prolonged period of time, the air was mostly clear when a hazardous materials team later inspected the facility, De Guzman said.


De Guzman said of the incident appeared accidental and isolated to one area of the building.

Fire crews responded to the call of a hazardous materials spill at 8:12 a.m., Abel said. Ambulances responded from Oceanside, Carlsbad, San Marcos and Vista.

Hazardous materials teams from San Diego and Camp Pendleton suited up in protective gear to inspect the building.

About 50 people work at the business, Abel said.

Fire officials would not comment on the medical conditions of the employees taken from the scene.



Twenty people were taken to area hospitals this morning after two caustic chemicals were mixed at Prudential Overall Supply, an industrial garment cleaning facility in the 2400 block of Ash Street in Vista

Staff Photo

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What is "Waste discharge trench"

[-][-] wrote on May 12, 2007 8:00 AM:

Mixing bleach and sulphuric acid. Wow. The fumes must have been terrible. Does the wastewater trench lead to containers which are tallied and removed as hazardous materials ? Just where does this trench go ? Could this material ever get to our sewers or runoff into the ocean ? Hazardous materials have to be handled with caution. That is why industries are in an

Videos

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Industrial Zone and do not have residents near them. Chemical accidents happen. There is always danger of spills which have already happened, leaving toxic chemicals in our ground and groundwater. This effects all of us. Where did those chemicals go and where do they go on a daily basis - into the "waste discharge trench" ? Using the term "trench" implies that it is open and drains away. Please give us follow-up and let us know what happens to those chemicals.

**zack**  
[-][-] wrote on Dec 3, 2007 10:48 AM:  
Calm down, you're not going to die from a waste discharge trench.

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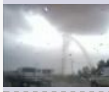
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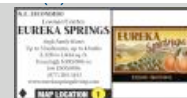
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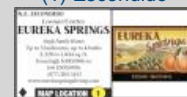
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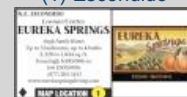
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