

# Sphere Storage Risk Evaluation xxxxxx Refinery Co.

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Prepared and  
Presented by HSB PLC

# Contents

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- Executive Summary
- Risk Evaluation Approach
- LPG Fire and Explosion Incident Data
- Failure Mode Assessment
- Risk Analysis
- Proposed Risk Reduction Measures

# Executive Summary

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- The focus of the risk evaluation was to provide QRA of potential LPG accidental releases which could lead to intolerable **fire or explosion** events and consequential exposure to **plant operations, personnel, and the public**.
- **Consequence** and **event tree** probability models were applied to evaluate the LPG spare storage fire and explosion risk.

# Executive Summary

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## ■ Result

- BLEVE(Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion)
  - approximately  $4 \times 10^{-4}$  incidents per sphere tank farm year
  - approximately **3000ft** exposure personnel and community
- UVCE(Unconfined Vapor Cloud Explosion)
  - approximately  $6 \times 10^{-6}$  incidents per sphere tank farm year
  - approximately within **500 ft** radius blast damage to tanks, processing unit and equipment

# Executive Summary

## ■ Risk Reduction Recommendations

### – Short-term

- include a fire protection strategy *fireproofing or improved water spray* coverage - flanges, valves, fittings and liquid LPG piping connected to the bottom of the sphere tanks
- include a strategy to optimize the use of the existing water spray systems in terms of response time by considering the installation of remotely actuated control valves

### – Long-term

- consider include risk reduction for *sampling and water draw-off operations* which involve human error factors
- provision of a tank water flooding connection would provide the benefit of displacing LPG with water if an accidental release occurs at the bottom of the tank and can not be readily isolated

# Risk Evaluation Approach

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The risk evaluation process performed by HSB PLC integrates the judgment of experienced engineers, techniques of deterministic and probabilistic modeling, and historical fire and explosion loss incident data.

- *Identification and selection of LPG system failure modes*
- *Fire and explosion consequence modeling*
- *Risk analysis using event tree models*
- *Risk reduction measures*

# Risk Evaluation Approach

## ■ Failure Mode Assessment

- Leakage from valve stem seals and flange gaskets
- Leakage when taking a sample or drawing water
- Leakage from transfer piping because of corrosion, mechanical damage, or from screwed piping connection
- Failure of a transfer pipe flexible joint or cargo hose at the interface between a fixed facility and a truck, railroad tank car, or tank ship
- Leakage from a storage vessel because of corrosion
- Tank overfilling, which forces liquid out the pressure relief safety valves

# Risk Evaluation Approach

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- **Consequence Modeling**
  - LPG release mode (instantaneous or continuous)
  - Rate and duration of LPG discharge
  - Time to ignition
  - Initial mixing with air and cloud dispersion characteristic
  - Performance of risk reduction measures to reduce....
    - Touch fire
    - Flash fire due to delayed ignition of a vapor cloud
    - BLEVE (Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapor Explosion)
    - UVCE (Unconfined Vapor Cloud Explosion)



# Risk Evaluation Approach

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- Risk Analysis Using Event Tree Models
  - Design Effectiveness
  - Availability
  - Reliability

$$P_S = P_{DAB} \times P_{OLA} \times P_{OR}$$

**DAB** : Effectiveness Design Application Basis

**OLA** : Online Availability

**OR** : Operational Reliability on Demand

# Risk Evaluation Approach

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- Proposed Risk Reduction Measure

**Risk Tolerance**

Incidents/Year

$>1.0 \times 10^{-3}$

$1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$

$<1.0 \times 10^{-5}$

Risk Reduction Actions

Further risk evaluation and risk reduction need

Further risk evaluation and risk reduction warranted, should be considered

Further risk evaluation and risk need not be considered

# LPG Fire and Explosion Incident Data

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- A relative breakdown of **consequential effects** in terms of type of fire or explosion and/or in terms of resulting damage
- Identification of representative or dominant **failure mode** which have led to accidental release LPG
- Identification of **ignition sources** and, in some cases, the size of the release prior to ignition
- Information concerning the general effect of **loss mitigation factors**
- Information for the generation of **credible loss scenarios** and the structuring or event tree analysis

# LPG Fire and Explosion Incident Data

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In this study of LPG releases over a 30-year period, API lists the following major release causes:

- Leakage from valve stem **seals** and flange **gaskets**
- Leakage when taking a **sample** or **drawing water**
- Leakage from transfer piping - **corrosion, mechanical damage, screwed piping connections**
- Failure of transfer pipe **flexible joint** or **cargo hose**
- Leakage from a storage vessels - **corrosion**
- Tank overfilling, which forces liquid out the **pressure relief safety valves**

# LPG Fire and Explosion Incident Data

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Relative percentage of accidents from 80 LPG fire and explosion loss incidents:

<u>Type of incidents</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Flash Fire	41%
BLEVE	21%
UVCE	19%
CVE	19%

# LPG Fire and Explosion Incident Data

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## ■ Immediate Causes

- Hose Rupture
- Overfilling
- Freezing of pressure release valve in the open position
- Rupture/leakage of tank connections
- Collision of motorized vehicles during operation
- Maintenance error
- Natural causes

## ■ Ignition Causes

- Motorized vehicles
  - Electric motors and switch gear
  - Electrical lights and switches
  - Atmospheric discharges (lightning)
- Ignition distance ***15-180m***
- Ignition delay of up to ***35 minutes***

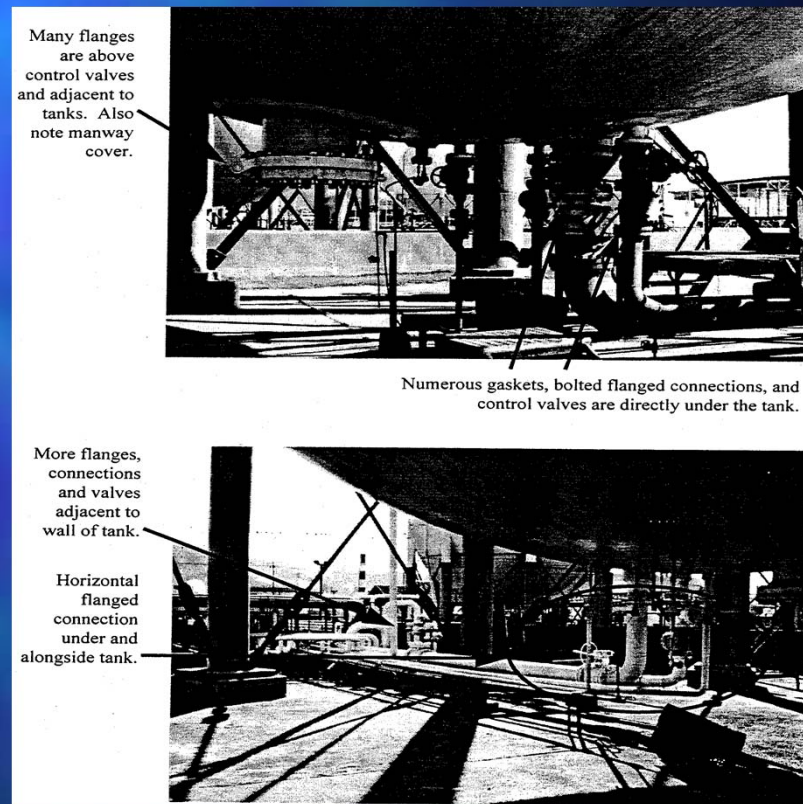
# Failure Mode Assessment

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- Leakage from flanges, valves and fittings located at the bottom of tanks
- Failure to isolate following sampling or water draw-off operations
- Failure of LPG liquid transfer lines connected to bottom of tanks
- Failure of LPG vapor lines and connected to top of tank
- Liquid overflow from relief vent due to overfilling
- Major tank failure

# Failure Mode Assessment

- Leakage gaskets, valves...
  - 6-inch fill line
  - 10-inch discharge line
  - 4-inch recirculation
  - 2-inch water draw-off
  - 1-inch sampling line
  - Instrumentation connection
- Failure rate **0.0099/10<sup>6</sup> Hr**  
(CCPS RT Data)
- Potential failure rate  
**0.022/tank farm year**

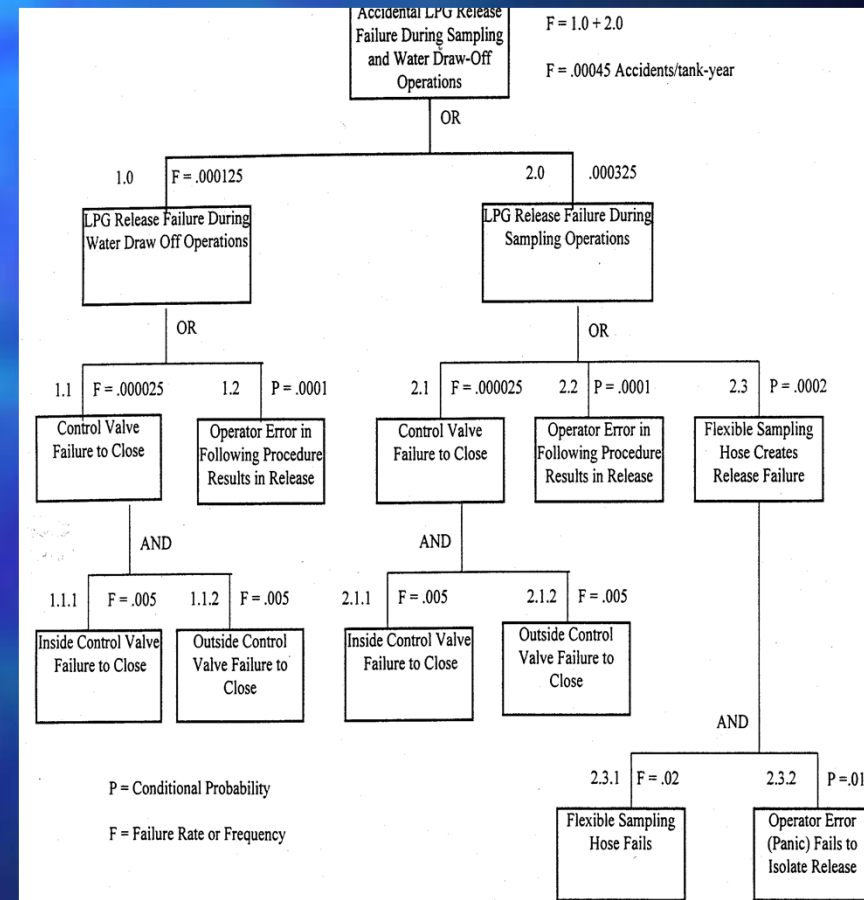




# Failure Mode Assessment

- Failure to isolate sampling or water draw-off

- Estimated failure rate 0.00045/tank year
- Estimated failure potential 0.009/tank farm year



# Failure Mode Assessment

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- On the majority of spherical tanks there are five liquid line piping connections to the bottom of the tank which are 1-inch or greater
  - 6-inch fill line
  - 10-inch discharge
  - 4-inch recirculation
  - 2-inch water draw-off
  - 1-inch sampling line
- Estimated failure rate  $0.000335(3.35 \times 10^{-4})$
- Estimated failure potential  $0.0007(7.0 \times 10^{-4})$

# Failure Mode Assessment

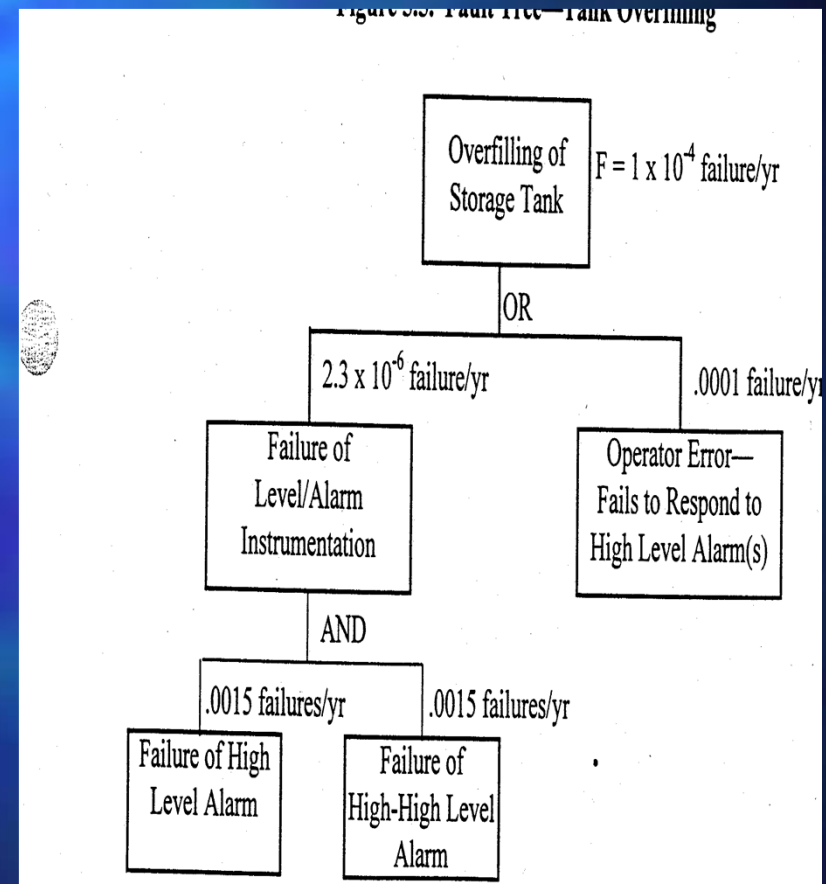
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<u>Item</u>	<u>Size of Failure</u>	<u>Failure Rate</u>
Small <50 mm diameter (<2 inch piping)	Full bore rupture 20% of pipe diameter	$8.8 \times 10^{-7}$ (m yr <sup>-1</sup> ) $8.8 \times 10^{-6}$ (m yr <sup>-1</sup> )
Medium >50mm diameter ≤150mm diameter (2-10 inch piping)	Full bore rupture 20% of pipe diameter	$2.6 \times 10^{-7}$ (m yr <sup>-1</sup> ) $5.3 \times 10^{-6}$ (m yr <sup>-1</sup> )

# Failure Mode Assessment

- Overfilling prevention
  - High level/alarm
  - High-high level/alarm
  - High pressure Tr/alarm
  - Manual shutdown
- Failure rate  $0.17/10^6$
- Estimated failure rate  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$
- Estimated failure potential  $2.0 \times 10^{-3}$

*HSB Professional Loss Control*



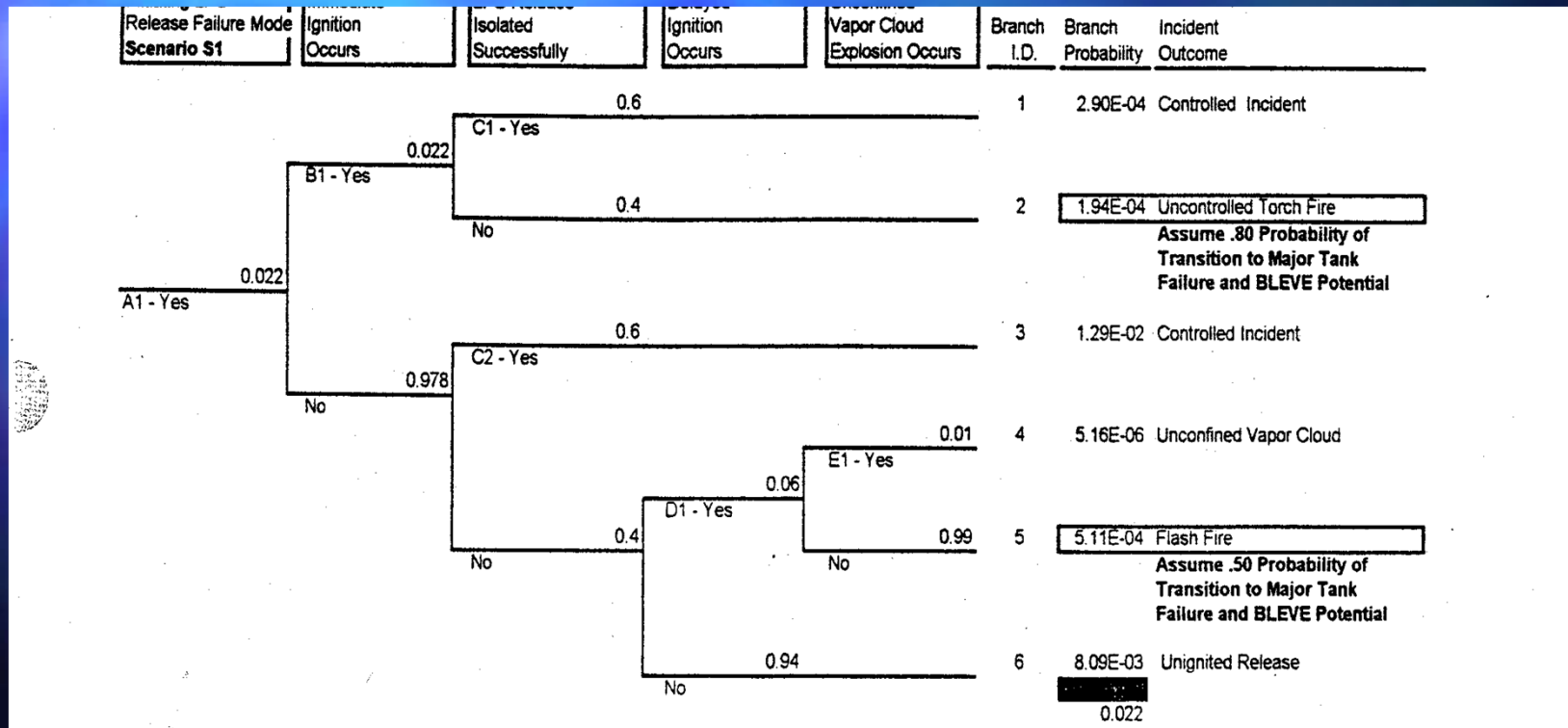
# Failure Mode Assessment

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- Major Tank Failure : Primary factors which contribute to failure rate potential include the following
  - Design philosophy and quality
  - Inspection philosophy and quality
  - Maintenance philosophy and quality
  - Operational philosophy and quality
  - Safety standards
- Estimated failure frequency  $8.3 \times 10^{-6}/\text{year}$
- Estimated failure potential frequency  $1.7 \times 10^{-4}/\text{year}$

# Risk Analysis

- S1 Event tree analysis(Leakage flange, valve....)



# UVCE and BLEVE Likelihood

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<b>Scenario</b>	<b>UVCE Likelihood</b>	<b>BLEVE Likelihood</b>
<b>S1</b> Leakage from Flanges, Valves, Fittings at BTM of Tank	5.16 x E-06	1.70 x E-04
<b>S2</b> Failure to Isolate Following Sampling or Water Draw-Off	5.75 x E-06	1.04 x E-04
<b>S3</b> Fracture of LPG Liquid Transfer Line Connected to BTM of Tank	5.89 x E-05	1.32 x E-04

# Risk Analysis

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## ■ BLEVE Fireball Hazard Results

- Maximum Fireball Diameter : **455m**
- Maximum Fireball Height : **748m**
- Fireball Duration : **21.7sec**
- Individual Risk Zone Radius : **927m**
- BLEVE Combined Likelihood :  **$4.24 \times 10^{-4}$**



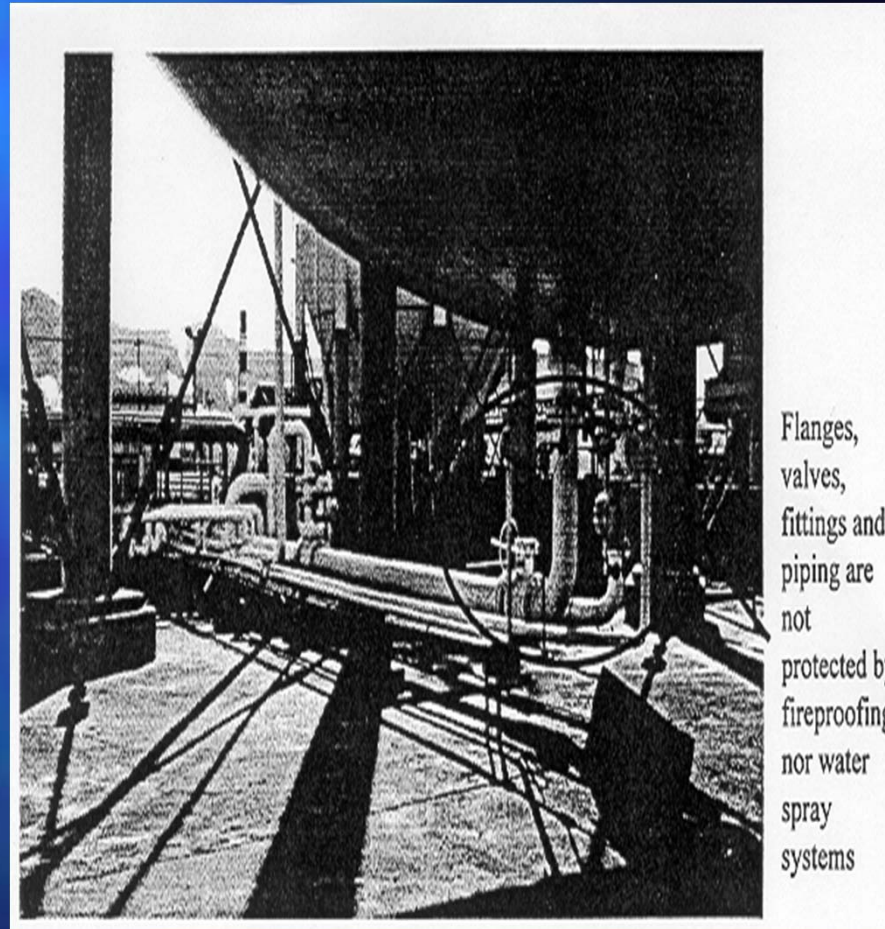
# Risk Analysis

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- Unconfined Vapor Cloud Explosion(UVCE)
  - 56m(15-29psi) : 90-100% PD, Major injury or fatality
  - 106m(5-7psi) : 70-90% PD, Moderate exposure to individuals
  - 146m(3-5psi) : 50-70% PD, Minor exposure to individuals
  - 218m(1-3psi) : 25-50% PD, Minor or negligible exposure to individuals

# Proposed Risk Reduction Measures

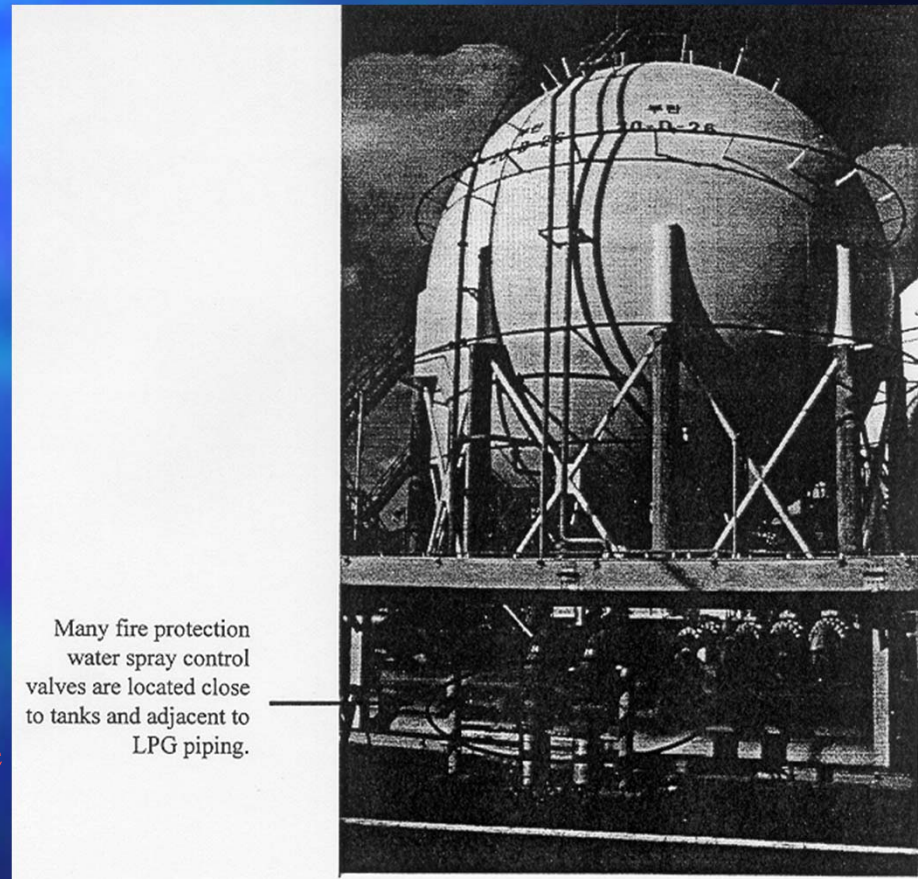
- Protection of valves, flanges, and fittings at the bottom of tanks
  - Fireproofing
  - Water spray system improvements



# Proposed Risk Reduction Measures

- Remotely Actuated Water Spray System C/V

Control valves which can be remotely operated from a safe locations should be installed in place of the existing manual c/v valves to improve the performance success probability of the water spray system in providing quick, effective water spray cooling of the tanks for BLEVE prevention



# Proposed Risk Reduction Measures

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The control valves should be specifically designed for fire services use and fire rate. They should be fail safe and incorporate the following design feature

- Operation from safe, remote location, such as from the C/R which is constantly occupied
- Automatic operation at the valve via fusible element such as a section of plastic tubing in the air line to a pneumatic valve.
- Manual operation at the valve.

# Proposed Risk Reduction Measures

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- Reducing Risks During Sampling/Water Draw-off
  - Relocating sampling lines out from under the tanks
  - \* If this is not feasible, remotely actuated valves could be provided
  - A formal inspection, maintenance and testing program should be developed for the sampling and truck loading flexible hose
  - Water draw-off lines should terminate at least 10ft outside of the shadow of the tank
  - Clean drainage ditches

# Proposed Risk Reduction Measures

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- Water Flooding Connections
  - The provision of a water flood connection on the LPG product fill line connected to the bottom of the tank should be considered. This type of provision could be part of a contingency plan given a situation where release of LPG liquid occur from a tank bottom piping connection, flange, valve, or fitting which cannot be readily isolated.