FACE FACTS
No. 18
CALIFORNIA FATALITY ASSESSMENT & CONTROL EVALUATION PROGRAM
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WELDER KILLED BY EXPLODING FUEL TANK!

In a recent incident, a twenty-five-year-old welder, Carlos S.*, died while repairing a fuel tank. The tank was attached to the bed of a pick-up truck. There was still some flammable liquid or vapor left in the tank when Carlos started welding. Carlos had never had classes or other formal training in welding safety.

WHAT WENT WRONG?	WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?
Carlos did not know the precautions he needed to take when welding a fuel tank.	Make sure welders have been fully trained in fuel tank repair before starting any work. They should be tested to make sure they are competent.
The tank contained flammable vapors or liquids when Carlos started welding.	Make sure fuel tanks are inspected, cleaned, purged, and checked for flammable vapors or liquids before any welding occurs. The tanks may need to be filled with water or an inert gas.

The California Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program has been investigating work-related deaths since 1992. The goal of the FACE program is to prevent these deaths by informing workers and managers of worksite hazards and how to avoid them.

For complete fatality reports of this case (07CA006), or other cases, and additional information on the California FACE program, contact:

California Department of Public Health
Occupational Health Branch (OHB), FACE Program
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 3rd Floor, Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 620-5757
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb-face
CA Relay Service: 711 or (800) 735-2929 (hearing/speech impaired)

To obtain a copy of this document in an alternate format, please contact OHB at (510) 620-5757. Please allow at least 10 working days to coordinate alternate format services.

* Not the victim's real name

FACE stands for "Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation." The purpose of the **FACE** program is to identify hazards that may cause work-related deaths so that employers and employees can help prevent them.

FACE is a program run by the Occupational Health Branch within the California Department of Public Health, and funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California

Kimberly Belshé, Secretary
Health and Human Services Agency

Mark B. Horton, MD, MSPH, Director
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