

Arizona Emergency Response Commission  
5636 East McDowell Road  
Phoenix AZ, 85008-3495



Jane Dee Hull, Governor

Michael P. Austin, Director  
Daniel Roe, Executive Director

[www.dem.state.az.us/azserc](http://www.dem.state.az.us/azserc)

[www.azserc.org](http://www.azserc.org)

# GATEKEEPER NEWSLETTER

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Please keep us up to date on your contact information. Your comments and contributions are needed. Please let our editor in chief: Anthony Cox, Administrative Secretary I, know at [CoxA@dem.state.az.us](mailto:CoxA@dem.state.az.us).

Sincerely,

Daniel Roe,  
Executive Director

## HOT - FIRE GRANT SUSPENSE DATE

The suspense date for the USFA Grants is fast approaching. All applications must be received by the grants office by 5:00 PM EDT on May 2, 2001. That is 2:00 PM for most of Arizona.

The entire application for the USFA Grants is now at their website [www.usfa.fema.gov/grants](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants). More information on the grant program is available from the toll free information line (866) 274-0960 or by sending email to [usfagrants@fema.gov](mailto:usfagrants@fema.gov).

Please note that this program has the complete interest and support of Mr. Michael P. Austin, Chair of the Commission and Director of Arizona Division of Emergency Management. It would be great to see Arizona score high on grants successes. Thanks for your efforts.

Applications should be mailed to:

USFA Grant Program Technical Assistance Center  
16825 South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727-8998

Note: All nine digits of the zip code must be included to ensure proper routing.

## NATIONAL LEPC DATABASE

The Environmental Protection Agency has web pages online now with click and find information on Local Emergency Committee's throughout the United States.

<http://www.epa.gov/ceppo/lepclist.htm>

## **EPA TRI TRAINING IN ARIZONA**

Free Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Toxic Chemical Release Inventory (TRI) (Form R) training is scheduled for Arizona.

The Arizona Emergency Response Commission (AZSERC) will host the Environmental Protection Agency's contract presentation in Tucson on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001 (one day workshop) and again in Phoenix on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> (two day workshop)

The Tucson workshop will be held at 150 West Congress, Level B (Tucson-Pima County Emergency Operations Center) from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The Phoenix workshop will be held at 5636 East McDowell Road, Building 101 – Russell Auditorium each day from 8:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Please note that registration for the first day in Phoenix will be open at 7:30 AM.

Got chemicals? Is this for you?

- If you manufacture, import, process, blend, repackage and/or otherwise use chemicals and are unsure of reporting requirements to federal and state authorities...**THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE!**
- If you are subject to TRI and have to report annually on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for the previous calendar year...and want to know what's new...**THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE!**
- If you have an interest in learning what facilities in your community must report on and how involved that process is...**THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE!**
- If you are a member of a Local Emergency Planning Committee or a member of the Emergency Response Commission and wish to further your knowledge of chemicals and facilities subject to Community Right to Know...**THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE!**
- If your agency or consultant group provides support to businesses in the community to assist them in understanding their environmental and emergency management requirements...**THIS IS THE PLACE TO BE!**

## **AGATEKEEPER 2002"**

Reserve your seats now...

AGATEKEEPER 2002" will be held on January 16-17, 2002.

Russell Auditorium, Building 101  
Papago Park Military Reservation  
Department of Emergency and Military Affairs  
5636 East McDowell Road  
Phoenix, Arizona 85008

Let us know that you are interested...

# COMMUNITY RELEASE REPORTS: Oops!

VALLEY & STATE

*3/13/01*

## Acid blast hurts worker

By Christina Leonard  
The Arizona Republic

One man was slightly injured after nitric acid exploded in a south Phoenix industrial park Monday morning, tossing fiberglass and debris up in the air.

An employee at Futureweld Co., 5414 S. 40th St., apparently poured acetone into a 55-gallon drum full of nitric acid outside the plant about

11:50 a.m., causing a reaction that blew the top of the drum about 100 feet high, fire officials said.

Frank Neth, a 62-year-old employee who was standing nearby, was hit in the back with fiberglass. He declined medical treatment.

The explosion sent an orange plume into the air, but hazardous materials crews quickly stabilized and contained the acid by spray-

ing foam on it, officials said. About 50 people were evacuated from nearby businesses.

The department will inspect Futureweld to check for hazardous materials and storage violations, Deputy Fire Chief Bob Khan said.

Phoenix is facing the largest claims in its history resulting from a single incident stemming from an Aug. 2 blaze at 38th Street and Broadway Road.

*3/14/01*

## In your neighborhood

### EXPLOSION AVERTED

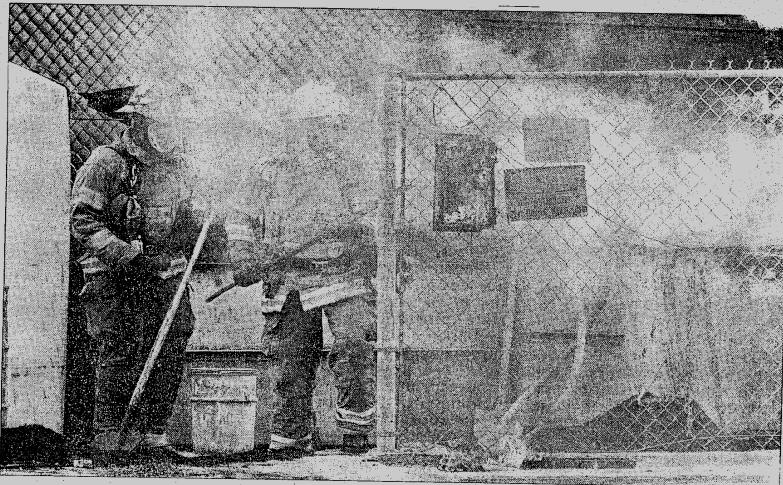
A sprinkler system doused a fire in a bunker holding 11,000 pounds of explosives at an east Mesa manufacturing facility, averting a potential disaster, a Mesa fire spokeswoman said.

Nobody was injured in the fire, which occurred about 1:30 p.m. inside a bunker at Talley Defense Systems, 4301 N. Higley Road. Some materials detonated, but the sprinkler system immediately extinguished the fire, said Deputy Chief Mary Cameli, a spokeswoman for the Mesa Fire Department.

Talley designs, develops and produces propellant-based products.

VALLEY & STATE

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Jack Kurtz/The Arizona Republic

## All in a day's work

Glendale and Phoenix firefighters use a special sand to smother a fire behind the Presto Casting Company on Tuesday. HAZMAT units were called to the scene because the fire was caused by magnesium, according to the Glendale Fire Department. No one was injured.

## Lawsuit alleges violations by Nogales water plant

Associated Press

**TUCSON** — A public interest organization has filed a lawsuit alleging repeated pollution discharge violations at the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The suit, filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Tucson, alleges that there have been at least 152 violations of the plant's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit over the past five years.

The International Boundary and Water Commission and Nogales operate the plant together.

The suit was filed by the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest on behalf of a Nogales resident and the Sierra Club, an environmental organization. The suit contends that erosion in pipes cause untreated wastewater being carried to the plant to flow into the Nogales Wash.

The center also contends that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has failed to uphold a non-discretionary duty to enforce compliance at the plant in the past three years.

The suit names the EPA, Nogales and the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Wa-

ter Commission as defendants.

Matthew McGuire, Nogales' acting city attorney, said the city had not been served with the suit as of Friday. Similarly, a spokeswoman with the IBWC, with headquarters in El Paso, said her agency had not received notice of a lawsuit.

In San Francisco, EPA spokesman Randy Wittorp said, "EPA will take a look at the lawsuit and then begin working with the Department of Justice in determining how we should respond. In the meantime, we are currently working with the city of Nogales and the International Boundary and Water Commission to try to address some of the problems associated with the wastewater treatment plant."

"One of the strategies we are considering is to award a grant that would be used to upgrade the facility. As you can imagine, we are dealing with an international facility that treats wastes from Mexico and Arizona, so there are many complicating factors."

The center said that pollution has troubled the Nogales Wash and the Santa Cruz River in the past, with chemical tests of waters in the wash having found hepatitis and cholera.

### FLASH FIRE INJURIES

A 36-year-old Mesa man suffered second-degree burns to his right arm Tuesday in a flash fire at the Special Devices Inc. plant in Mesa.

The incident occurred at 8:14 a.m. at the company's facility, 3431 N. Reseda Circle. Tom Koetzle was cleaning some equipment when a chemical residue flashed, said Deputy Chief Mary Cameli, a spokeswoman for the Mesa Fire Department.

Koetzle was flown to Maricopa Medical Center's burn unit. His was listed in good condition Tuesday evening.

## Chemical fire leaves workers badly burned

By Carlos Miller and Carol Sowers  
The Arizona Republic

A chemical that scorched two workers at a west Phoenix metal refinery Tuesday morning still is burning their skin, doctors say, and they won't know for two or three days how much permanent damage the men will suffer.

Edward Isaac, 53, owner of AMR Industries, and his employee, Javier Esquer, 21, of Mexico, were burned on their heads, necks and upper bodies about 8 a.m., when a chemical eruption caused a flash fire at the plant near 36th Avenue and Osborn Road.

Authorities aren't sure yet what went wrong, but the accident occurred as the men were spreading chemical sludge produced by metal plating.

Isaac, who has owned the plant for 15 years, has had no safety violations, records show.

Dr. Kevin Foster, a surgeon at the Maricopa Medical Center Burn Unit, told a news conference Tuesday afternoon that Isaac was burned over 60 percent of his body and Esquer over 20 percent. Foster said chemical burns

can be difficult to treat because they continue to assault the skin.

"I would classify these patients as having severe burns," Foster said, adding that both men are in critical condition.

Family members have gathered around the men at the Burn Unit, but none would talk to reporters.

Both men are on breathing machines and taking fluids intravenously.

Foster said the men's injuries are not immediately life-threatening but could be.

Foster also said doctors aren't sure what chemicals were involved in the explosion.

Investigators said things went wrong after a metal-plating process.

Deputy Chief Bob Khan of the Phoenix Fire Department said the process creates a sludge of cyanide and about 15 other chemicals. Metals in the sludge are removed after it dries. The explosion occurred as the men were spreading the sludge to dry in a 10-foot-by-10-foot work area, Khan said.

An unidentified co-worker helped firefighters rescue the men.

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

## LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!



Arizona Emergency Response Commission:  
Serving Community, Industry and Government... In Coordinating  
Hazardous Chemical Emergency Response, Planning, Training,  
Outreach, Exercising and Reporting

