

Safety Alert

Source: Safety Alert from Visser Smit Hanab

Number 4 - 28 September 2020

Exploded container

What happened?

A V&SH container exploded in Vijfhuizen on Saturday 26 September around 08:00. The blast of the explosion could be heard as far as Haarlem. No employees were present at the time of the explosion. At that time, there were also no motorists, cyclists or walkers in the immediate vicinity.

How could this happen?

A total of 5 gas bottles (propane, 15L) were present in the closed container. One of the gas bottles has started to leak due to an unknown cause. This allowed the container to fill with gas. There was an (electrical) ignition source in the container, which caused the gas-filled container to explode. The force of the explosion was so great that the doors of the container were completely blown off and ended up about 20 meters away. Both adjacent containers were significantly damaged, as well as the office unit.

Was this preventable?

Yes, the rules are clearly displayed in VCA (VOL). But to be extra clear: the storage and transport of gas cylinders in containers is strictly prohibited unless the container has been specially adapted for this. The containers from V&SH and VSM do not meet these requirements. Storing gas bottles in containers is prohibited immediately. This also applies to subcontractors and suppliers on our projects. Adjacent containers were significantly damaged, as well as the office unit.

Actions to be taken immediately:

- Checking containers for the presence of gas bottles. Immediately remove gas bottles from containers and store and secure them outside (not in the immediate vicinity of office units and delivery trolleys). Order a suitable rack as soon as possible.
- The transport of gas cylinders from the Logistics Center V&SH and / or VSM in a suitable rack and not in material containers;
- If possible, local demand of gas bottles to location so that transport in containers is prevented;
- Minimize the stock of gas bottles on the project and ensure secure storage outside and in a suitable rack.

