

WHAT HAPPENED?

An employee was filling two fuel tanks on a jobsite. She had just finished filling one of the 2000 litre tanks with fuel and walked between the two tanks on a walkway to begin filling the second tank.

She placed the nozzle into the second tank and stepped off the walkway to go to her truck to grab a pipe wrench. The fuel tank stand then collapsed under the weight of the fuel.



WHAT DID/COULD HAVE WENT WRONG?

Had the employee not stepped off the walkway to get a pipe wrench, she would have been standing between the two tanks pumping fuel when it collapsed.

This would have certainly crushed her with no possible way of escape. This could have led to a fatality based on where she was standing and where the tanks came together.



KEY LESSON FROM INCIDENT

- Check to see that stands are engineered for the capacities placed on them. These stands were not rated as they were made by the owner of the company and not engineered to carry a specific load.
- Never place yourself between potential pinch/crush points.
- Assess the potential hazards before starting the job.
- Visually check stands for cracks and damages.
- Encourage customers to purchase tanks that are designed to be placed on the ground with proper securement.

This incident demonstrates the importance of designing and engineering equipment to withstand the potential forces applied to them. It also stresses the importance of performing a Hazard Assessment prior to performing a task.