

Methanol Accidents: Children / Schools

Date	Location	Description	Accident Consequences
January 25, 2006	Akron, Ohio	Fire started in a high school lab following ignition of methanol vapors during a chemistry experiment.	Six students and a teacher were seriously injured.
April 13, 2006	Belleville, Missouri	A juvenile was injured when a can of methanol fuel, used for a remote control car, caught fire.	The juvenile was badly injured and was in critical condition following the incident with severe burns on his chest, face and arms.
September 19, 2007	Syracuse, New York	Two juvenile males were lighting a methanol mixture on fire when the vapors traced back to the container causing an explosion.	Both juveniles had 2 nd and 3 rd degree burns and are in critical condition.
June 7, 2007	Rochester, New York	Classroom experiment with methanol ignited desktop materials and then ignited a high school student. Safety shower valve was in the off position.	High school student expected to have permanent scarring and neurological damage as a result of the accident. Lawsuit has been filed.
June 19, 2007	Brisbane, Australia	Two juveniles seriously injured when they were trying to light a methanol fuel on fire to see what would happen. Their activity resulted in an explosion.	Both juveniles suffered second-degree burns to their face, arms and legs. One is expected to have permanent disfigurement.
October 8, 2007	Huntsville, Tennessee	Demonstration at a college fair with a beaker of methanol exploded and caused a small fire.	A teacher and two students were transported to a nearby hospital
January 18, 2008	Hudson, Ohio	Two students settle lawsuit related to school lab fire for \$18.95 million two years after they were seriously burned during a school chemistry experiment.	

Methanol Accidents: Industrial / Chemical Plants / Miscellaneous

Date	Location	Description	Accident Consequences
June 26, 2005	Nairobi, Kenya	Black market methanol brew distributed to local bars resulting in catastrophic casualties.	174 people were hospitalized and 49 people were killed following the incident.
January 26, 2006	Unknown	An empty 55 gallon drum of methanol exploded and engulfed a laborer in flames while he was cutting the drum.	Man sustained severe burns and later died.
February 17, 2006	Bakersfield, CA	A tote of methanol came in contact with an electrical pump resulting in a fire that spread to other stored chemicals. Flames spread throughout the 9600 square foot building.	No one was seriously injured. 60 firefighters responded to the blaze to extinguish the fire.
February 28, 2006	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Methanol tank explosion at a chemical plant during annual maintenance. Explosion was felt over a kilometer away from the site.	Two workers were killed instantly, a third later died at the hospital, a fourth was hospitalized for burns.
October 10, 2006	Johannesburg, South Africa	Tanker car carrying 10,000 gallons of methanol collides with vehicle and drags it for 150 meters. Highway was closed for most of the day while firefighters battled the burning tanker.	Five people were incinerated in the crash. The driver of the truck was also believed to have burned.
January 5, 2007	Albany, New York	CSX rail car containing 28,000 gallons of methanol catches fire after a minor collision	Emergency response teams evacuate about 50 homes and extinguish the fire without further incident.
April 20, 2006	Cleveland, Ohio	Workers were removing a catwalk above a storage tank containing methanol when sparks caused an explosion. The 40 foot tall tank was launched into the air landing 50 feet from its original location.	Five workers were hospitalized and treated for severe burns. The EPA and Coast Guard responded to assist in containing the blaze and protecting the area from hazardous runoff.

July 9, 2006	Meridan, Idaho	Welding sparks explosion at biodiesel plant scheduled to open within the month.	One worker was killed, homes and businesses were evacuated.
August 30, 2006	Quebec, Canada	A spark caused an explosion at a chemical plant in Quebec resulted in evacuation of 1500 people from surrounding homes and businesses.	One plant worker had minor burns, chemical plant was partially destroyed.
August 28, 2007	Palau Enoe, Malaysia	Two contract workers in their 30's were seriously injured following an explosion at the Petronas methanol plant	One worker reported to be in critical condition, the second in stable condition following the accident.
October 16, 2007	Anchorage, Alaska	2000 gallons of a methanol mixture spilled onto a frozen pond.	Hazardous clean-up company was contracted to clean up the spill.
January 4, 2008	Defiance, Ohio	Explosion occurred at a biodiesel facility when a manhole cover was left open accidentally. Methanol vapors filled a warehouse and ignited when an employee activated the electric garage door opener.	The explosion injured 4 employees. The plant is shut down indefinitely and will most likely be relocated.
January 10, 2008	Millville, New Jersey	Atlantic City bomb squad detonated a suspicious jar of liquid labeled "methanol propanol" discovered near some train tracks	No one was injured nor are there any leads as to who left the container.
February 7, 2008	Savannah, Georgia	Sugar dust at a refinery ignited resulting in a large explosion in an area where approximately 100 employees were working. Firefighters battled the blaze for several days.	Sixty two people were hospitalized, 11 people were killed and 12 remain in critical condition as of February 25, 2008
February 8, 2008	Kandla, India	A 500 ton tank storing methanol caught fire. Firefighters used seawater to continuously spray the glowing red tank for an entire day to prevent the tank from rupturing.	The storage tank was part of a much larger tank farm. If seawater had not been available firefighters hypothesized that this accident would have been catastrophic.

Methanol Accidents: Daytona Beach / Bethune Point Wastewater Treatment Plant Accident Chronology

Date	Location	Description
Januray 11, 2006	Daytona Beach, FL	Workers were repairing a damaged roof above a methanol storage tank with a cutting torch. Sparks from the hot-work ignited methanol vapors venting from the tank. The explosion traveled into the methanol storage tank resulting in a second larger explosion. One worker was killed instantly, a second later died in the hospital from severe burns and a third remains in an intensive care burn hospital.
March 30, 2006	Daytona Beach, FL	Widow of city worker who died in an explosion at Daytona Beach files suit against the city.
August 4, 2006	Daytona Beach, FL	Family of victim files suit against the city and five companies that installed the methanol storage tanks.
December 16, 2006	Daytona Beach, FL	Investigators determine that a failed flame arrestor was responsible for the tank explosion. The flame arrestor was severely corroded and not inspected prior to the accident indicating that the Daytona Beach deaths were avoidable.
March 13, 2007	Daytona Beach, FL	U.S. Chemical Safety Board finalized investigation and blames the city and state for lack of safety procedures as the cause of the accident.
March 13, 2007	Alexandria, VA	Water Environment Federation and Methanol Institute launch new methanol safety program for wastewater treatment plants.
March 16, 2007	Tallahassee, FL	American Society of Safety Engineers endorses U.S Chemical Safety Board recommendations for OSHA protection for public employees.
May 24, 2007	Washington, DC	Widow of Casey Jones testifies before Congress in response to the lack of proper safety equipment and training available at the time of the Daytona Beach WWTP explosion.
May 25, 2007	Washington, DC	US Chemical Safety Board testifies before U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Workforce Protections as follow up to Daytona Beach WWTP explosion. CSB pushing for mandatory OSHA requirements for all public employees.
March 28, 2008	Tallahassee, FL	Florida lawmakers approve a bill to create a task force to review the safety programs for government employees.