

METAL / NONMETAL

Serious Accident Alert

Underground Lead-Zinc Ore - Two miners were welding a patch on a leaking fuel tank when the tank exploded seriously injuring both miners.



BEST PRACTICES

- Develop, implement, and enforce procedures for welding on fuel tanks.
- Disconnect the battery and remove or turn off ignition sources before draining the tank.
- Drain tanks only in well-ventilated areas, preferably outdoors.
- If the fuel tank is removed from the vehicle, or if welding will be carried out near the fuel lines, ensure that the lines are drained and the vapors are purged from the lines before the welding activities are started.
- Thoroughly clean the surface on which the tank is mounted.
- Ventilate, purge, clean, and re-test before welding any area or space where a harmful atmosphere may exist.
- Filling the tank with water to within inches of the welding area can provide an extra measure of safety.



Protecting Miners' Safety and Health Since 1978