

One Incident – Three Beacons!
 (and there could have been more)

November 2011



If you have been a regular reader of the *Beacon* for several years, you may recognize the pictures to the left. The top picture shows a large fire at an oil refinery near Sunray, Texas on February 16, 2007. The second picture shows some of the damage. Three workers were injured and the refinery was temporarily shut down. This incident was the subject of three *Beacons*, with three very different safety lessons:



- **October 2008:** “Ice ruptures unused pipe and causes fire”
- **May 2010:** “Fireproofing structural supports”
- **September 2011:** “Hazards from abandoned equipment”

There are more things to learn from this single incident. You can go to www.csb.gov and look for the Valero Refinery Propane Fire investigation to see the complete report.



October 2008 **May 2010** **September 2011**

The Beacon is 10 years old!

The *Beacon* is 10 years old this month! Since November 2001, the *Beacon* has shared process safety lessons throughout the world in an ever increasing number of languages. The current direct mailing list contains over 21,000 email addresses. CCPS thanks its member organizations, the *Beacon* sponsors, the *Beacon* Committee, and over 40 volunteer translators for making it possible to share this information and improve safety in our industry.

Did you know?

- ➔ There is more than one thing to learn from every incident or near miss in your plant.
 - ➔ Nearly every incident has multiple root causes.
 - ➔ Incidents can have multiple contributing causes.
- Here are some examples of contributing causes: safety equipment or shutdown systems which didn't work, failure of control systems and procedures to control a plant disturbance, failure of emergency response systems and procedures.
- ➔ You can't learn anything from an incident or near miss which is never reported!

What can you do?

- ➔ Know how to recognize incidents and near misses, and how to report them so they can be investigated.
- ➔ If you are involved in an incident investigation, insist that the investigation be complete. Identify all of the root and contributing causes so you can learn as much as possible.
- ➔ When you read an incident report, or the *Beacon*, look for all of the lessons learned and think about how they apply to your plant.
- ➔ Look for more information about a *Beacon* incident. *We don't have much space so we have to leave things out!!!*

Look for ALL of the lessons from every incident!