

**WORKER STRUCK BY FUEL
TANK FILLER NECK**

Type of Incident: Fatality

Date of Incident: October 17, 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION	TITLE	PAGE NUMBER
1.0	DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT	3
2.0	NAME & ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES	3
2.1	Owner	3
2.2	Prime Contractor	3
2.3	Employer	3
2.4	Worker	3
2.5	Other	3
3.0	DESCRIPTION OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES	3
3.1	Owner	3
3.2	Employer	4
3.2	Worker	4
4.0	LOCATION OF INCIDENT	4
5.0	EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL AND OBSERVATIONS	4
5.1	Equipment and Material	4
5.2	Observations	4
6.0	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT	4
7.0	ANALYSIS	5
7.1	Direct Cause	5
7.2	Contributing Factors	6
8.0	FOLLOW-UP/ ACTION TAKEN	6
8.1	Employment and Immigration, Occupational Health and Safety	6
8.2	Industry	6
9.0	SIGNATURES	7
10.0	ATTACHMENTS	7

SECTION 1.0 DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT

1.1 October 17, 2010 at approximately 5:00 p.m.

SECTION 2.0 NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES

2.1 Owner

2.1.1 Casebeer Farms
 28442 Highway 581
 Alberta

2.2 Prime Contractor

2.2.1 N/A

2.3 Employer

2.3.1 1561558 Alberta Ltd.
 29 – 4 Stonegate Drive
 Airdrie, Alberta
 T4B 2T2

2.4 Worker

2.4.1

#1

2.5 Others

2.5.1 RCMP
 Didsbury Detachment
 Alberta

SECTION 3.0 DESCRIPTION OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES

3.1 Owner

Casebeer Farms was the owner of the site where the incident occurred. The owner of the farm had given permission to 1561558 Alberta Ltd to salvage the abandoned farm equipment on his property at no charge.

3.2 Employer

1561558 Alberta Ltd. is a small company specializing in salvaging abandoned farm equipment for scrap metal/recycling. It was his son and two co-workers, who were with him at the time of the incident. 1561558 Alberta Ltd. was incorporated approximately three weeks prior to the incident, on September 29, 2010.

3.3 Worker

The deceased worker () was a scrap metal collector and had been doing similar work for 8 years.

SECTION 4.0 LOCATION OF INCIDENT

4.1 The incident occurred on Casebeer Farms, located at 28442, Highway 581 near Carstairs, Alberta (Refer to Attachment A-Map and Attachment B- Photograph 1).

SECTION 5.0 EQUIPMENT, MATERIAL AND OBSERVATIONS

5.1 Equipment and Material

5.1.1 The workers were cutting an abandoned combine with an oxy-propane torch. The combine was lying on its side and the fuel tank was 6 ft above ground level facing workers. A filler neck was attached to the fuel tank.

A bobcat was used for collecting/moving scrap metal. (Refer to Attachment B - Photographs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7).

5.2 Observations

5.2.1 At the time of the incident it was sunny and clear with a temperature of 12 °C.

SECTION 6.0 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT

6.1 On October 17, 2010 scrap metal collector (), torch cutter (), bobcat operator () and helper () arrived on the farm property and completed the dismantling/torch cutting of the first of two abandoned combines. The scrap metal was collected and placed in bins.

- 6.2 The workers walked around the second combine and checked the fuel tank. It appeared to be empty but had a strong odor. The scrap collector filled the fuel tank with water and drilled holes to drain the water. They proceeded to take apart the combine using the torch and the bobcat.
- 6.3 The bobcat operator rolled the combine over with the bobcat to cut the undercarriage. The fuel tank was resting on ground and the fuel/water mixture draining from the fuel tank caught fire. The workers used the fire extinguishers to put out the fire on the tank and let the fire on the ground burn out. As the fire on the ground burned out, they covered it with mud. The workers shoveled the residue and mud into scrap bins.
- 6.4 The scrap collector re-filled the fuel tank with water. The workers took a break. After the break, the workers walked around and concluded that it was safe to proceed. The bobcat operator rolled the combine in the opposite direction, locating the fuel tank on top. The torch cutter resumed cutting near the top left side of the combine.
- 6.5 At approximately 5:00 p.m., there was a loud noise. The filler neck from the fuel tank had blown off and struck the scrap collector, who was between the bobcat and the combine. He fell to the ground with injuries to his chest. The bobcat operator and the torch cutter rushed to the scrap collector but could not get a response from him.
- 6.6 The bobcat operator went to the farm house to get assistance. The farmer's wife called Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and rushed to the scene. They followed instructions from EMS on their mobile phone and provided emergency medical services to the injured scrap collector.
- 6.7 EMS arrived on scene and attended to the injured scrap collector. STARS air ambulance arrived on the scene and the scrap collector () was pronounced dead at the scene.

SECTION 7.0 ANALYSIS

7.1 Direct Cause

- 7.1.1 The scrap collector was struck in the chest by the filler neck of the fuel tank.

7.2 Contributing Factors

- 7.2.1 There was residual gas vapour in the fuel tank.
- 7.2.2 The sparks from the cutting torch ignited the gas vapour.
- 7.2.3 The filler neck blew off the fuel tank due to the explosion.
- 7.2.4 The scrap collector was directly in the path of the flying filler neck.
- 7.2.5 The workers did not recognize the presence of gas vapour in the fuel tank, after it was flushed with water.
- 7.2.6 Testing for an explosive atmosphere was not conducted.

SECTION 8.0 FOLLOW-UP/ ACTION TAKEN

8.1 Employment and Immigration, Occupational Health and Safety

- 8.1.1 On October 17, 2010, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) received an incident notification. OHS Officers responded to the scene and commenced an incident investigation.
- 8.1.2 OHS issued a stop work order for salvaging operations until preventive measures were in place to prevent a recurrence of a similar incident.
- 8.1.3 OHS issued an order requiring the employer to conduct an incident investigation and prepare a report.
- 8.1.4 OHS issued an order requiring the employer to conduct a hazard assessment for the operations involving salvaging operations.
- 8.1.5 OHS issued an order requiring the employer to develop safe work procedures for salvaging operations.

8.2 Industry

- 8.2.1 On October 17, 2010 following the incident the employer stopped salvaging work.
- 8.2.2 The employer conducted an incident investigation and submitted a report to OHS.
- 8.2.3 The employer prepared a hazard assessment for the salvaging operations.
- 8.2.4 The employer developed safe work procedures for salvaging operations.
- 8.2.5 The employer complied with all orders issued by OHS.

SECTION 9.0 SIGNATURES

Shantha Nandana, Lead Investigator

Date

Chuck Samphire, Reviewer

Date

Karen MacDonald, Regional Director

Date

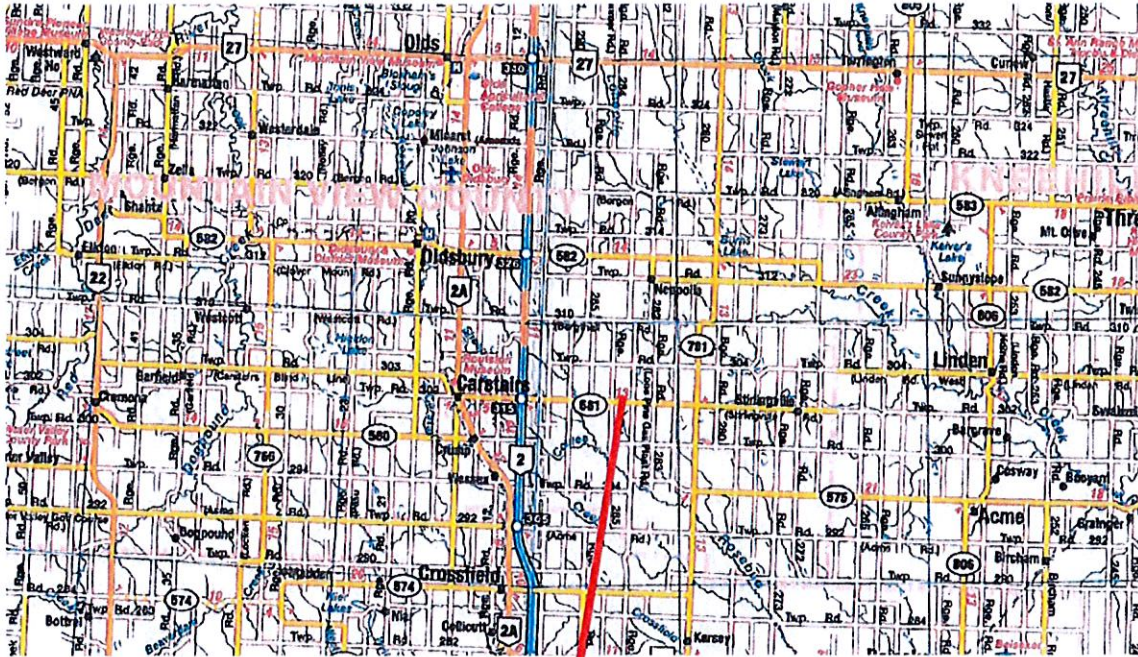
SECTION 10.0 ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A

Map

Attachment B

Photographs



The incident occurred at Casebeer Farm, located at 28442 Hwy 581 near Carstairs, Alberta.



Photograph #1: Shows the site of the incident.

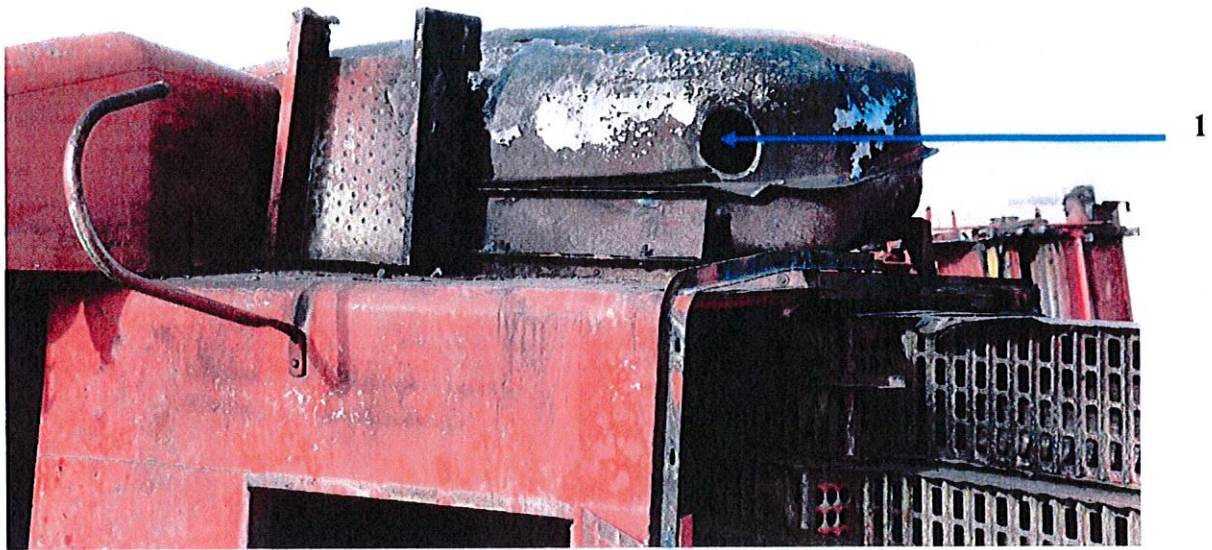
1 The scrap combine.

2 The bobcat.



Photograph #2: Shows the scrap combine on its side.

- 1 The worker's location when he was struck by the filler neck.
- 2 The location where the torch cutter was cutting the metal with a torch.
- 3 The fuel tank.



Photograph #3: Shows a close up view of the fuel tank after the incident.

- 1 Location where the filler neck was located prior to the incident.



Photograph #4: Shows the rear view of the fuel tank.

Arrows point to the drilled holes in the bottom of the fuel tank.



Photograph #5: Shows the gas cylinders used for torch cutting.

1 The propane cylinder.

2 The oxygen cylinder.



Photograph #6: Shows the torch used for cutting the scrap metal.



Photograph #7: Shows the fuel tank filler neck that struck the worker.