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ORIGINAL

MILLER BREWING COMPANY

8EHQ-0895-13498

August 25, 1995



8EHQ-95-13498
INIT 88/28/95

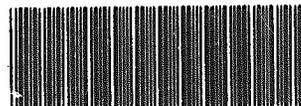
National Response Center
Office of Toxic Substances
Document Processing Center (TS-790)
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Contains No CBI

Attn: Section 8(e) Coordinator

Subject: Follow-up of Anhydrous Ammonia release on August 22, 1995,
National Response No. 304920.

Company: Miller Brewing Company
7001 South Freeway
Fort Worth, Texas 76134



88950000282

EPA I.D. NO. TXD026445395

Facility Emergency Contacts:
Don Nikirk - Bill Connerly - Tel. #(817) 551-3212
- Tel. #(817) 551-3371

Organizations Notified:

- Texas Emergency Response Center - at 6:15 p.m., 8/22/95
- National Response Center - at 6:20 p.m., 8/22/95

Release: 345 lbs. Of Anhydrous Ammonia

SUMMARY

On Tuesday, August 22, 1995, we experienced an ammonia release to the Powerhouse roof from the ammonia relief valve of No. 10 ammonia compressor. The leak did not result in any injuries to personnel or property and did not require personnel evacuation. It is estimated the relief valve relieved for 10 minutes until it was identified and isolated.

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SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Approximately 2:52 p.m., we had a motor control center go down that shut down part of the NH₃ refrigeration system and the water makeup system to the evaporative condensers. Employees were sent to manually hose connect water to the evaporative condensers to keep the head pressure down and be able to keep the rest of the NH₃ refrigeration system on. At approximately 3:15 p.m., we detected an NH₃ odor inside the Powerhouse and immediately shut down the NH₃ system. Employees located an NH₃ vent blowing on the Powerhouse roof and came down and isolated our No. 10 ammonia compressor. The ammonia odor dissipated, and the NH₃ refrigeration system was restarted.

EVALUATION FOR CAUSE OF RELEASE

The relief valve was a Henry relief valve with 1/2" inlet and 3/4" outlet, and it had a broken spring. It was examined under a magnifying glass, and there appears to be a carbon pit or defective point in the very center of the spring at the break point. The relief valve was rated at 250 PSIG, and the system pressure did not get above 208 PSIG. Since the high pressure on the system the prior day was 198 PSIG with no problems, we believe the relief valve spring failed and broke at some point above normal discharge operating pressure and before the set point of the relief valve.

This ammonia relief valve is on our 5 year change out program. It was last changed out on September 5, 1990 and was scheduled to be changed out on September 5, 1995. This relief valve has since been changed out and the compressor is back in operation.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (817)551-3212.

Sincerely,



Bill Connerly

cc: Pollution Cleanup Division
TNRCC - MC142
P. O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711

Best Available Copy