

## Metal/Nonmetal Northeast District

### Maintenance Accident

On December 23, 2009 four contract employees were dismantling the support structure for a reaction tank at the abandoned scrubber site. A small fire broke out on the outside of the tank. The employees extinguished the fire, but the tank exploded. There were no injuries. The explosion blew the windows out of the company's office building.



### Best Practices:

- Heat sources shall be separated from all combustibles in areas where welding or cutting is performed.
- A fire extinguisher shall be at the work site when cutting or welding.
- Assign a person to 'fire watch' when cutting or welding.