



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Watson Grinding Fatal Explosion and Fire
Recommendation Number:	2020-03-I-TX-R1
Date Issued:	June 29, 2023
Recipient:	Compressed Gas Association (CGA)
New Status:	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	Not Applicable – Initial Status

Recommendation Text:

Urge member companies that handle hazardous chemicals to share information with their customers about (1) the safety issues described in this report and (2) why their customers should develop and implement effective process safety management systems as part of their own internal safety programs, including informing member companies' customers about CGA P-86, Guideline for Process Safety Management, the Center for Chemical Process Safety's Guidelines for Risk Based Process Safety, or an equivalent approach.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On January 24, 2020, a leak of propylene from a high velocity oxygen fuel (HVOF) thermal spraying process resulted in an explosion at the Watson Grinding and Manufacturing Co. (Watson Grinding) facility in Houston, Texas. The leak was caused by a disconnected hose inside one of the facility's coating booths.

The explosion fatally injured a member of the public and two employees, two other employees were also injured. The explosion damaged hundreds of nearby structures, including homes and several businesses. Watson Grinding filed for bankruptcy on February 6, 2020, and the company is no longer in business.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including a lack of effective process safety management practices and emergency preparedness at the facility. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued one recommendation to the Compressed Gas Association (CGA). This status change summary addresses **CSB Recommendation No. 2020-03-I-TX-R1**.