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OSHA News Release - Region 4

U.S. Department of Labor

Nov. 17, 2017

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GIBSONTON, FL – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited Tampa Electric Co. and Critical Intervention Services, a security services provider, for \$43,458 in total proposed penalties, following a release of anhydrous ammonia – a chemical refrigerant – at its Gibsonton facility.

On May 23, 2017, OSHA responded to the incident and determined that the [ammonia \(/SLTC/ammoniarefrigeration/\)](/SLTC/ammoniarefrigeration/) release occurred when a relief valve activated after a pipeline became over pressurized. As a result, four workers were taken to the hospital for observation and released.

OSHA issued Tampa Electric two serious [citations \(https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/newsroom/newsreleases/OSHA20171546a.pdf\)](https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/newsroom/newsreleases/OSHA20171546a.pdf) for failing to include all the minimum requirements in their emergency response plan and not ensuring employees exposed to hazardous substances wore appropriate [respiratory protection \(/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/\)](/SLTC/respiratoryprotection/). The Agency also issued the power company a Hazard Alert Letter with recommendations to mitigate asphyxiation hazards.

The investigation also led to citations for Critical Intervention Services, which received two serious [violations \(https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/newsroom/newsreleases/OSHA20171546b.pdf\)](https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/newsroom/newsreleases/OSHA20171546b.pdf) for not developing or implementing a written [hazard communication \(/dsg/hazcom/index.html\)](/dsg/hazcom/index.html) program, and failing to provide information and training on hazardous chemicals in the workplace.

"When there is a potential hazardous chemical exposure, the emergency response plan must include all of the minimum safety and health requirements, including appropriate respiratory protection for employees," said OSHA Area Director Les Grove, in Tampa.

The company has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and proposed penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director, or contest the findings before the independent [Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission \(https://www.oshrc.gov/\)](https://www.oshrc.gov/).

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education, and assistance. For more information, visit [http://www.osha.gov \(/\)](http://www.osha.gov/).

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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