

Ammonia/OSHA Enforcement: Penalties Proposed for Alleged Florida Electric Utility Violations



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The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) issued a November 17th news release stating it cited Tampa Electric Co. (“Tampa Electric”) for alleged violations at its Gibsonton, Florida facility related to a release of anhydrous ammonia.

OSHA states that it also cited Critical Intervention Services, which is described as a security services provider.

OSHA states that in responding to the previously referenced release, the agency determined that it occurred when a relief valve activated after a pipeline became over pressurized.

Two citations classified as “serious” were issued to Tampa Electric which included:

- Failing to include all the minimum requirements in its emergency response plan
- Not ensuring employees exposed to hazardous substances wore appropriate respiratory protection

A “Hazard Alert Letter” was also issued to Tampa Electric. It is stated to contain recommendations to mitigate asphyxiation hazards.

The company has 15 days from receiving the 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.

[A copy of the OSHA news release which contains a link to the citations can be downloaded here.](#)