

THE UNION CARBIDE RECORD*

A COMPILATION OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND
POLLUTION INCIDENTS LINKED TO THE
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION

SEPTEMBER 11, 1985

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*Reproduced from the *amici* papers.

<i>Date/Year</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Cause</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Background</i>
Aug. 26, 1985	So. Charleston, West Virginia	hydrogen chloride	air pollution	an undetermined amount of hydrogen chloride gas released into the atmosphere by a leaky gasket at a Union Carbide plant.
Aug. 13, 1985	So. Charleston, West Virginia	isoproponal	water pollution	500-1,000 gallons of lubricant containing isoproponal and some sulfuric acid leak from Union Carbide storage tank into the Kanawha River.
Aug. 11, 1985	Institute, West Virginia	methylene chloride	134 people injured	leak of methyl chloride and aldicarb oxime not reported by Union Carbide to local authorities for 20 minutes, despite fact that computer system was not programmed for these chemicals and no tracking sensors had been installed.
July, 1985	California	aldicarb	crop destruction	a portion of the state watermelon crop was found to be tainted with Temik, Union Carbide's pesticide previously known to leach into groundwater, more than one million melons had to be destroyed.
Jan. 1, 1985	Little Rock, Arkansas	ethelyn oxide	3,000 people evacuated	leak of Union Carbide owned ethelyn oxide from railroad tank car, after derailment, forces evacuation from impoverished area of the city.
Dec. 3, 1985	Bhopal, India	methyl isocyanate	2,000 people dead, 100,000 injured	gas leak of methyl isocyanate (MIC) at Union Carbide subsidiary devastates city of Bhopal; casualty figures vary from 1,700 to 2,500 dead and between 100,000 and 200,000 injured; lawsuits pending.
1984	West Virginia	waste burning	air pollution	Union Carbide fined \$ 50,000 by state for open burning of toxic materials, including small amounts of MIC.
1983	Florida	aldicarb	farmworker dead	death of Paul Keller linked to handling of Union Carbide pesticide Temik.

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July, 1983	Marietta, Ohio	dioxin	ground pollution	Union Carbide phenol production facility landfill found to be contaminated with highly toxic chemical dioxin, dumped on six acre site between 1951 and 1971.
Dec. 11, 1985	Taft, Louisiana	acrolein	17,000 people evacuated	explosion, gas leak and fire at the Union Carbide acrylic esters production plant forces evacuation of nearby towns in St. Charles Parish.
1981	West Virginia	propylene oxide	water pollution	Union Carbide fined \$ 50,000 by state for 1,300 gallon spill of propylene oxide into the Kanawha River.
1981	Texas City, Texas	brain cancer	22 workers dead	OSHA/NIOSH report confirms job related brain cancer deaths, five times normal rate, among employees who worked at Union Carbide petrochemical plant since the 1940s.
1976-1980	Long Island, New York	aldicarb	water pollution	Union Carbide's aldicarb pesticide, Temik, found to contaminate drinking water wells, leaching into groundwater after use by farmers on potato crop.
1972-1980	Yabucoa, Puerto Rico	hydrogen sulfide	air pollution	Union Carbide plant fined \$ 550,000 for continuous emission into the air of coke and graphite dust and hydrogen sulfide and coal tar gases, which were linked to respiratory and other ailments in the nearby community.
1978-1979	West Virginia	propylene oxide	water pollution	24,300 gallons of this chemical spills into the Kanawha River from Union Carbide plant.
1977-1978	Jakarta, Indonesia	mercury	kidney disorders	high levels of mercury found in worker's drinking water linked to 402 cases of kidney disease at Union Carbide battery manufacturing plant.

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1976	S., Charleston, West Virginia	vinyl chloride	6 workers dead	six cases of angiosarcoma, a rare form of cancer related to vinyl chloride, was reported at Union Carbide plant.
Feb. 10, 1975	Antwerp, Belgium	explosion	6 workers dead, 25 injured	blast in factory leads to casualties.
1973	Ponce, Puerto Rico	benzene gas	1 worker dead, 1 injured	gas leak at Union Carbide petrochemical facility.
1972	Ponce, Puerto Rico	benzene gas	3 workers dead	gas leak at Union Carbide petrochemical facility.
1943-1983	Oak Ridge, Tennessee	mercury	air and water pollution	Union Carbide, as Department of Energy contractor at defense plant, lost some 2.4 million pounds of mercury at the facility: some 475,000 pounds believed dumped into the East Fork Poplar Creek where swimming and fishing was banned, and an unknown amount was released into the atmosphere.
1930-1932	Gauley Bridge, West Virginia	silicosis	476 workers dead, 1,500 injured	although the dangers of silicosis were known to medical science and industry, a Union Carbide subsidiary recruited a mostly black workforce to tunnel through rock comprised of silica; dense dust conditions and lack of safety apparatus led to the deaths and disabling lung disease.