

To: UKOPA
Subject: Competent Authority publishes Buncefield: Why did it happen?

UKOPA/11/0008

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Subject: Competent Authority publishes Buncefield: Why did it happen?

This message sent on behalf of Gordon MacDonald.

COMAH Competent Authority publishes:

Buncefield: Why did it happen?

The underlying causes of the explosion and fire at the Buncefield oil storage depot, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire on 11 December 2005'

I write to let you know that the COMAH Competent Authority has just published 'Buncefield: Why did it happen' (available here <http://www.hse.gov.uk/comah/investigation-reports.htm>). This brings together, in a single document, the underlying causes of the fire and explosion at the oil storage depot in December 2005.

The Major Incident Investigation Board (MIIB) set up to investigate the incident completed its work in 2008 and published its Final Report. At that time it was not possible to disclose all the information about the underlying causes on which many of its recommendations were based because criminal legal proceedings were still in progress. Now these proceedings have concluded, this information can be brought together so that everyone in major hazard industries ^ not just those involved in fuel storage ^ can learn from the incident, understand what went wrong, and act upon lessons that are pertinent to them. Although five years have passed since the incident, the information and advice in this report is still highly relevant today. I commend it to the industry.

Gordon MacDonald
Chairman
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