

KOSHA discussed safety and health measures with a chemical company and its suppliers

KOSHA had a discussion on chemical accident prevention and joint safety and health program with LG Chem and suppliers in Yeosu

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- Amid a series of fires and explosions including a fatal explosion at a chemical plant in Yeosu on March 17, KOSHA discussed safety measure and accident prevention plans with officials from LG Chem, a chemical factory in Yeosu, and its suppliers. LG Chem's factory in Yeosu produces petrochemical products like PVC and more than 2,000 employees are working at the Yeosu factory including those of 20 or so suppliers.
- President of KOSHA Basek Hun,ki and others, in a visit to the Industrial Complex in Yeosu, South Jeolla Province, checked how safety and health measures are managed and had a discussion about how to prevent chemical accidents.
- The visit comes ahead of the fall season when chemical factory maintenance works increase and so does the possibility of chemical accidents. The visit was joined by LG Chem's general OSH manager and representatives from its 23 suppliers.
- With safety and health measures for maintenance works of the suppliers topping the agenda, others include how to strengthen safety and health training for new entrants at the suppliers, support for OSH program of the suppliers, plan on risk assessment by process, and KOSHA's consulting service.
- Recent occupational accidents statistics show that the total number of victims by chemical accidents is on a decrease over the last five years but the victims of fire, explosion, or leakage are increasing.

※ No. of fire, explosion, leakage victims at chemical product manufacturers (5 yrs)

Year		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total		2,911	2,925	2,900	3,032	2,798
Crushes, trip, electrocution, etc		2,803	2,810	2,792	2,913	2,670
The No. of victims	Sub-total	108	115	108	119	128
	Fire	23	40	18	35	41
	Explosion	48	32	40	37	39
	Leakage	37	43	50	47	48

- Against this backdrop, KOSHA has launched a special taskforce for chemical accident prevention and chemical accidents investigation committee to set up a chemical accidents response mechanism and had meetings with OSH officials to come up with strategic prevention measures.
- “Recent chemical explosion accidents happened during a maintenance work by contractors,” Mr. Baek said. “Accidents occur especially when workers push the work too fast and accordingly fail to meet the safety standards. At any costs, the Process Safety Management should be strictly followed.”



Mr. Baek (second from the left) is discussing safety measures with OSH officials.

※ Chemical accidents in 2013

When	Where	Company	Substance that caused accidents	Cause	Personal injury
Jan 11	Jeonju	Miwon Commercial	Inflammable vapor	Explosion of centrifuge due to inflammable vapor	One dead
Jan 12	Sangju	Woongjin	35%	Leakage due to	No

		Polysilicon	hydrochloric acid	pipe rupture	personal injury
Mar 5	Gumi	Gumi Chemical	Chlorine	Backflow due to breakdown in cleaner equipment	One injured
Mar 14	Yeosu	Daelim	Polyethylene dust and more	Explosion during repair work	Six dead, eleven injured
Mar 25	Hwaseong	Dongjin Semichem	Acetic acid	Leakage of acetic acid solution due to damaged temporary wastes container	Two injured
Apr 14	Ulsan	Samsung Fine Chemicals	Chlorine gas	Chlorine gas leakage from FRP connecting to scrubber	Six mildly injured