

## **Lanxess Accidents 1996-2005**

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Lanxess Plastics in Addyston has had three large accidents in the past four months: one in October 2004, one in December 2004, and one in February 2005. Unfortunately, these accidents are not isolated incidents, but rather a display of chronic behavior dating back to at least 1996 when Bayer bought the plant from Monsanto. The list below shows the most significant of these accidents from 1996 through February 2005.

In 2004 alone, Lanxess reported 107 accidents (see attached chart). These recurring accidents caused the release of 3,932.36 lbs of toxic chemicals into the air and 79 gallons of untreated waste into Ohio River. These releases are in addition to the plant's "routine" toxic chemical emissions.

### **Bayer/Lanxess Noteworthy Accidents, 1996-2005**

- 1) Apr 6, 1996: 200 lbs of styrene released; system start up did not work
- 2) Apr 28, 1996: 3,100 lbs of caustic solution released, contained on site
- 3) May 30, 1996: 1,400 lbs of styrene released due to a blown rupture disk (overpressured tank), contained on site
- 4) Dec 15, 1996: 336 lbs of acrylonitrile released due to a ruptured disk, material was vented to emergency blow down tanks, contained on site
- 5) Oct 6, 1998: 1,400 lbs of sodium bisulfite was released to Ohio River when a pump backpressure valve failure
- 6) Feb 14, 1999: 200 lbs of acrylonitrile released to the air due to LNIC process unit in upset conditions and was forced to blow the batch down to the blowdown tank
- 7) Apr 24, 1999: 51 lbs of acrylonitrile released
- 8) Jun 9, 1999: 371 lbs of acrylonitrile released in five minutes due to failure of LNIC suspension kettle. Four community people went to the hospital because of the incident, including the agency investigator, 11 people called in odor complaints to Hamilton County. VIOLATION.

9) Feb 9, 2001: 572 lbs of acrylonitrile and 126 lbs of styrene released to the air in 39 minutes, due to valve failure.

10) Feb 2, 2002: 199 lbs of butadiene spilled to the Ohio River in 45 minutes. VIOLATION.

11) Apr 2, 2002: 237 lbs of acrylonitrile (79 lbs released into atmosphere, 119 lbs sent to waste water treatment plant) 278 lbs of styrene released.

12) Jun 1, 2002: 503 lbs of acrylonitrile and 423 lbs of styrene in 5 minutes

13) Jun 2, 2002: 300 lbs of acrylonitrile released to the air due to a malfunction of the reactor. VIOLATION.

14) Jun 5, 2002: 150 lbs of acrylonitrile and 170 lbs of styrene released in five minutes

15) Oct 4, 2004: main duct system malfunctioned and vented to the air all weekend due to a valve failure. 1,122 lbs of acrylonitrile, 34 lbs of butadiene, and 387 lbs of styrene were released in 49 hours.

16) Dec 15, 2004: overpressurization of a small reactor, 700 lbs of acrylonitrile released in five minutes. VIOLATION PENDING.

17) Feb 23, 2005: a leak occurred within the emulsion polymerization process resulting in 750 lbs of 1,3 butadiene released to the air in four and a half hours.

Source: Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services