# *What Would Good Have Looked Like?*
# *Tank Fire from Vapours in Slurried Tank*

ExxonMobil

## What Happened?

- During removal of a slurry filled tank, a small fire occurred as the excavator cutting equipment made a hole in the tank.
- In making the hole larger to pump out the liquid on top of the slurry inside the tank, a spark/or heat from metal on metal caused the vapours from the tank to ignite .
- Conducted LEL testing around the tank pit, but not at the tank opening or within.

Tank after opening up after the fire

## What's the Worst Thing That Could Happen?

**An explosion could occur, with the potential for loss of life!**

## What could have been done differently ?


***Remove at least one element to prevent fire/explosion!***

### 1) Better Work Planning

- ✓ Procedures & JSAs need to reflect the potential for voids containing flammable vapour in all slurried tanks
- ✓ Confirm **Supervisor Qualifications/Experience**

### 2) Don't assume slurry tanks are Free of Vapours

- ✓ Establish how to reduce elevated LEL levels within the tank – plan for **inerting the voids** with Dry ice, nitrogen or foam, or flush with water until the LEL exposure is removed

### 3) LEL monitoring INSIDE the tank!

- ✓ Use extension wands or flexible tubing to measure LEL and Oxygen levels inside the tank at all of the tank openings

**Assess, Analyze, Act ….STOP work when free liquids are found!**

***LEL with extension tube***

**Environmental Services**

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