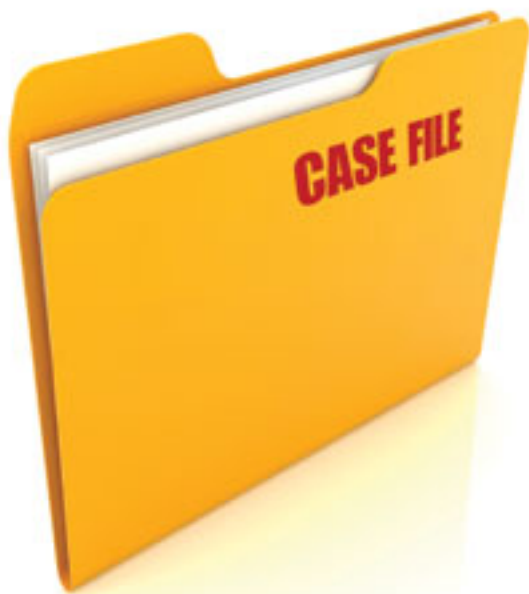


Dodging Disaster: VPP Group

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This article first appeared in March 2013's "[iPurchase: Safety First \[1\]](#)"



Chem.Info's recurring Dodging Disasters feature details the missteps and safety oversights that led to a recent plant disaster and provides actionable information to help processors avoid the same mistakes. Today we take a look at a recent incident at VPP Group.

VPP Group, LLC

Norwalk, Wis.

OSHA Citation Date: June 7, 2012

OSHA Fine: \$186,000.00

On December 9, 2011 Edgar Rodriguez Becerra was killed by electrocution in an industrial accident at VPP Group's western Wisconsin beef processing facility. OSHA's investigation into the conditions that led to Mr. Becerra's death was concluded the following June when a Citation and Notice of Penalty was issued to the company.

Among VPP Group's reported violations, OSHA alleges to have found ten willful or serious violations including a leaky water pipe located very near equipment that was not weatherproofed or rated for wet environments. This factor was determined to be the direct cause of death. Other OSHA citations filed with the report include:

- placing electrical fixtures, boxes, and fittings in locations where water could enter and accumulate.

