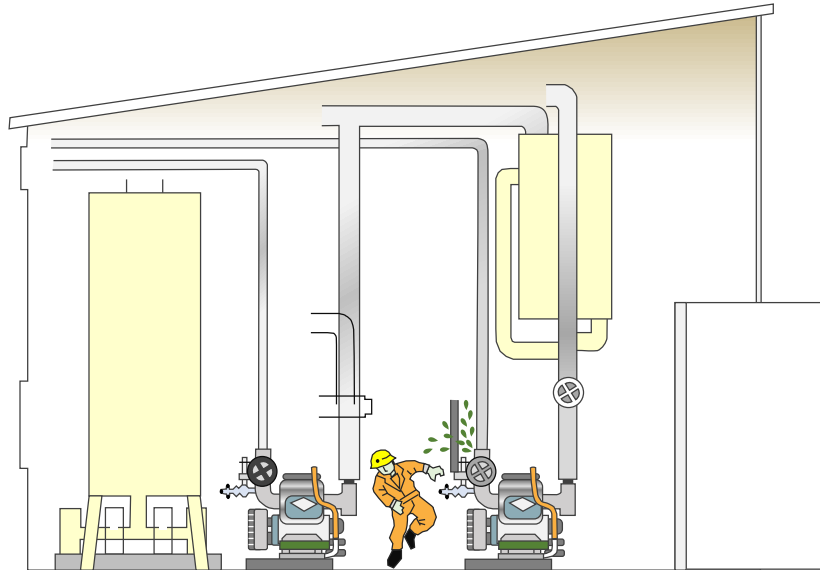


Case involving poisoning due to ammonia coolant leaking from a freezer and entering a meat processing plant



[Location of accident]

Freezer in the machine room of a meat processing plant

[Cause of accident]

Failure of a solenoid valve on the cooling system used in a meat processing process damaged the compressor in the freezer, resulting in ammonia gas entering and spreading throughout the plant.

Work resumed after workers were evacuated and the gas ventilated. However, the workers sustained injuries due to insufficient removal of the ammonia gas.

[Damage/injuries]

The workers suffered ammonia poisoning after resuming work. Additionally, an engineering section staff member sustained frostbite on the toes after touching a low temperature object when closing the valve of the freezer.

Extract from [Preventive measures]

[4] If an ammonia gas leak occurs, determine whether all gas has been cleared and whether to allow access to closed off areas based on objective criteria, such as gas concentration measurements.



Riken Keiki Recommendations

Gas detectors are useful not just for emergency situations like gas leaks, but for regular inspections. They contribute to worker safety and the prompt detection of ammonia gas leaks.