

News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

Matt Skinner, Public Information

Phone: (405) 521-4180, FAX: (405) 522-1623, m.skinner@occemail.com

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STAY AWAY, STAY SAFE

Commissioners warn oilfield sites only for professionals

(Oklahoma City) A recent incident in which a 15 year-old boy was badly burned at an oil-field tank battery has prompted another warning from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission about the need for the general public to stay clear of such sites.

Commission Chairman Jeff Cloud said part of the problem might be that such facilities are a common sight to many Oklahomans.

“Many times we either forget or don’t fully grasp the potential danger of something simply because we’re accustomed to it,” noted Cloud. “Some children wrongly see oil and gas sites as potential playgrounds. We even have reports of adults using them as hunting blinds. But the reality is such sites are only for trained professionals who know exactly what to do and, just as importantly, what not to do around such equipment.”

Commissioner Bob Anthony said oil field safety begins in the home.

“There are caring parents who wouldn’t dream of allowing their children to run around unsupervised in a factory. Oil and gas sites are no different. They are no place for children or the layman.”

Commissioner Denise Bode said the Commission works with other organizations to promote oilfield safety.

“Every year the Commission gives the Michael Jenkins Award to an individual who has gone to great lengths to educate our children about the dangers of playing around oilfield equipment. Michael Jenkins was 12 years old when he was killed while playing on a tank battery. His parents founded the Michael 4 Safety Foundation to help educate school children on oilfield safety. The Commission also works with the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) to promote such education in the classroom and the media. Urge your local school to allow us and the other organizations to come speak to your school, church or community group to outline the dangers in person.”

The Commissioners also noted that there is excellent material on oil field safety available for free to schools, parents and the general public through the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board and Michael 4 Safety. For more information, go to www.oerb.com and www.michael4safety.org.