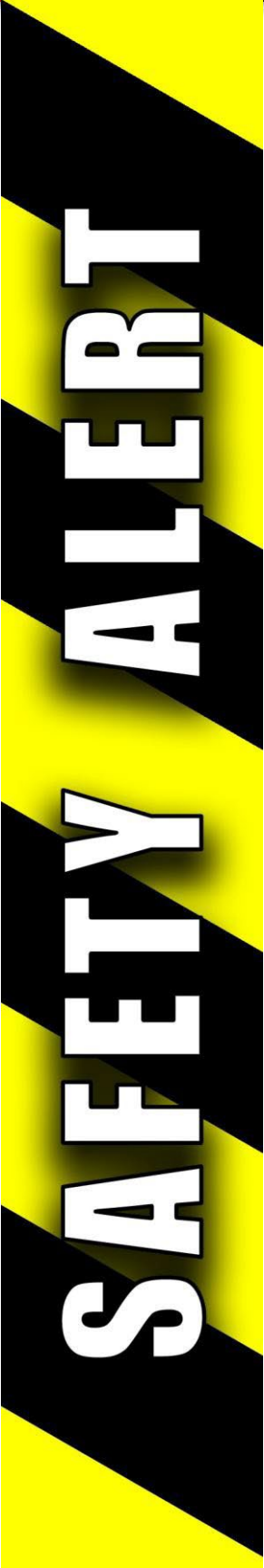




**HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL**



Alert #: SA 47-26

Date: July 23, 2026

Lightning Strike Ignites Tank Battery During Weather Delay

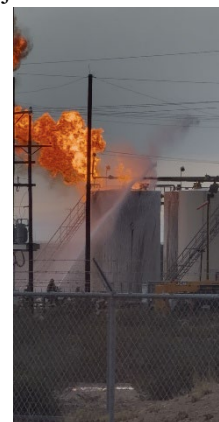
Recently a GIS crane crew was preparing to perform crane operations at a customer location in West Texas when thunderstorms moved into the area. The crew followed the site's 30-minute lightning delay policy and remained on standby until conditions improved. During the delay period, lightning struck a nearby tank battery, causing a fire. Because operations had already been suspended and personnel remained clear of the area, no injuries occurred. Emergency services responded to the incident and the fire was extinguished.

What Went Right:

- The crew recognized deteriorating weather conditions and suspended operations.
- The team followed the established lightning delay policy.
- Personnel remained in a safe location during the storm.
- No injuries occurred because the crew respected the hazards associated with severe weather.

Lessons Learned:

Thunderstorms create hazards that extend beyond direct lightning strikes. In oil and gas operations, lightning can impact tanks, vessels, equipment, and electrical systems, potentially resulting in fires, explosions, equipment damage, or serious injuries. Just because lightning isn't directly overhead doesn't mean the danger has passed. Severe weather can develop quickly, and lightning can strike miles away from a storm cell.



LIFE Principles in Action:

LOOK: Monitor weather conditions before and during operations. Stay alert to changing weather patterns, lightning activity, and developing storm systems.

INTERVENE: Speak up and stop work when hazardous weather conditions exist. Do not allow schedule pressure or production demands to influence safe decisions.

FACILITATE: Ensure all personnel understand site-specific weather monitoring and lightning procedures. Communicate delays, expectations, and hazards to all personnel.

ELIMINATE: Suspend operations when lightning or severe weather threatens personnel or equipment. Move personnel to designated safe locations and wait for the required all-clear period before resuming work.

Key Reminders:

This incident serves as a reminder that weather delays are not inconveniences, they are critical controls that protect people from potentially catastrophic events.

- Follow all site lightning and severe weather policies.
- Never assume equipment, tanks, or structures provide adequate protection from lightning hazards.
- Maintain situational awareness during weather delays.
- Use Stop Work Authority whenever conditions become unsafe.
- Resume work only after the required waiting period has been met and conditions have been reassessed.

Key Takeaway:

This event demonstrates how recognizing hazards early, stopping work, and following established controls can prevent a serious incident, injury or fatality. The crew respected the lightning delay policy and remained clear of the work area, eliminating their exposure when the tank battery was struck. Their actions reflect the GIS LIFE principles in action and reinforce a simple but important lesson:

When severe weather moves in, don't take chances. Stop, assess the risk, and wait until conditions are safe before resuming work. Everyone has the authority and responsibility to stop work when conditions become unsafe.

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment

