

\$1,950,000

Oil Refinery Explosion  
**NEGLIGENT JOB SET UP**

**FACTS:** Plaintiff was working as a welder at an oil refinery. A crude oil line had been taken out of service for improvements. An approximate 20 foot section was cold cut from the line. Balloon-type pipe plugs were inserted into the open ends of the line. The line had not been steam cleaned. Torch cutting (hotwork) on one end of the line was taking place when hydrocarbon vapors inside the line were ignited causing one of the pipe plugs to blow out the end of the line. Plaintiff was standing near the open end of the line and was struck by the flames as the pipe plug blew out of the line.

**CONTENTIONS:** Plaintiff contended that the Defendant refinery was responsible for authorizing hotwork to take place without the line being steam cleaned and for failure to use the proper pipe plug for adequate isolation. Defendant refinery contended that Plaintiff was negligent for standing in the zone of danger while the hotwork was taking place on the subject line and that Plaintiff's employer installed the pipe plug and was negligent for failure to inflate the plug to the manufacturer's recommended air pressure.

**INJURIES:** Plaintiff sustained burns to approximately 15% of his body with the majority being second degree and approximately 1% being third degree.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Plaintiff settled with Defendant refinery for the total sum of \$1,950,000 with the Plaintiff-In-Intervention waiving its lien of approximately \$270,000 due to employer negligence.

**LAMBERT v. CHEVRON, et al.**  
**CASE NUMBER:** BC 282234  
**LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT**