

# Acetylene Safety

## *Remote Start Sets Off Acetylene Explosion - Virginia Beach*



By Cindy Clayton, The Virginian-Pilot, August 21, 2013 (VIRGINIA BEACH)

An explosion and fire destroyed a truck in the 300 block of Gainsborough Road in Virginia Beach on Tues., Aug. 20, 2013. Investigators believe a tank with flammable gas detonated when a key fob was pressed to unlock the door. (Courtesy Virginia Beach Fire Department )

The scene in a Carolanne Farms neighborhood this morning resembled one from a movie. A contractor on his way to work about 7 a.m. stepped outside his home, pressed the button on his key fob to unlock his truck's door. Then, boom.

An explosion hurled parts of the truck into neighbors' yards. The windshield landed in the backyard of a house across the street and debris littered the 300 block of Gainsborough Road.

The heating and air conditioning contractor was not injured, but the windows of his home were shattered. Flying truck parts left scars on the garage. A vehicle parked nearby was damaged.

The man had stored an acetylene bottle on the truck. Virginia Beach Fire Department Battalion Chief Jack Crandell said fumes from the bottle likely escaped overnight and ignited when the key fob was pressed.

"He was lucky," Crandell continued. "Had he started it, it would have been a much different result."

The cause is under investigation, although the explosion was ruled an accident.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2013/08/key-fob-sets-explosion-va-beach>

## Two Injured in Acetylene Explosion

August 11, 2004, McPherson, KS

A 21-year old man sustained serious injuries when he reached into the back seat of his pick-up truck to pull out several balloons that were filled with acetylene.

Authorities believe that Loren Dauer, of Lindsborg, in McPherson County, Kansas, created a static spark as he slid across the back seat that caused an explosion strong enough to nearly take the top off his truck.

Dauer and his eleven year-old nephew were shooting the balloons with roman candles in the backyard of his parent's home around 10 p.m. as part of their 4th of July celebrations. With only a few more balloons left to shoot, the accident happened.

Sirens could be heard at the Lindsborg fireworks display being held at nearby Bethany College as firefighters and police officers were being dispatched to the scene.



Dauer and his nephew were taken to the hospital in Wichita where they received treatment for their injuries. Dauer was treated for cuts on his face and body that he received from the glass that shattered from the trucks windows. He was also treated for other injuries received to his ears. A wound to his young nephew's face required 30 stitches.

The force of the explosion was so strong that neighbors who had gathered in the yard to watch the activities were jolted several feet from their lawn chairs and the garage where the truck was parked next to received extensive damage as well.