

**One dead after steam boiler explosion at pharmaceutical giant GSK in Belgium**

*At the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 a young technician (24 years old ) died at the production site of pharmaceutical company GSK in Rixensart, Belgium.*



GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals S.A. is located in Rixensart, close to Brussels.

At about 16h45 a fire tube 'MEURA BLOC' steam boiler, diesel fired, exploded. The flying waifs and strays injured a 24-year old service technician. The unfortunate GSK service technician passed the boiler room door just at the moment that it was blown away by the explosion, and the door hit him badly. He died later in hospital from his injuries. 3 other employees were slightly injured and in shock, and have been transferred to the infirmary at the GSK site.



Fire department teams of Waver and Eigenbrakel came on site to stop a potential fire, but the situation was very fast under control.

Although the boilers were located in a separate boiler room, the explosion caused damage to a beside empty GSK production hall.

While the people at GSK are in deep mourning, an auditor has ordered a preliminary investigation to determine the causes of the accident and the responsibilities. Medical and psychological teams (internal and external to the pharmaceutical company) are made available to the GSK staff and the family of the victim.

***"We will make every effort to cooperate with the investigation and to ensure that such a tragedy does not happen again"***, said an official at GSK.

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