

REMOVING LOUISIANA AMMONIA TANK ROOF

D.H. Griffin of Texas &
Demolition Dynamics, Inc. Team

D.H. Griffin of Texas removed 3700 cu. yards of perlite insulating material from walls of ammonia tank.

On Saturday November 9, 1996, D.H. Griffin of Texas, Inc. and NADC-member Demolition Dynamics, Inc. of Franklin, TN removed a double dome roof from an ammonia tank in Lake Charles, Louisiana, by use of explosives.

The tank stood 80 feet to the top of the top ring and 130 feet in diameter. There was another tank on the inside that stood 128 feet in diameter and 80 feet tall. There was a double domed roof that extended 30 feet to the top. The roof structure was a light weight steel compression ring system with a two foot space between the upper and lower roof and tank. This void was filled with 3,700 cubic yards of perlite insulating materials which was removed by vacuuming it out and transforming the material into closed top rolloff boxes for transportation and disposal.

The domed roofs were prepared for the explosives by torch cutting out the middle section of the domes to act as an air release and then by cutting a 4 foot opening around the domes where they connected to the top of the tank walls.

There was two hundred 5 inch x 3 inch angle iron connections holding up the roofs, Demolition Dynamics wired 200 shape charges all without a delay. Both domes were imploded at the same time and fell to the bottom of the tank without even scratching the side walls.



*Lake Charles, LA ammonia tank
was brought down in a fully operational chemical plant.*