

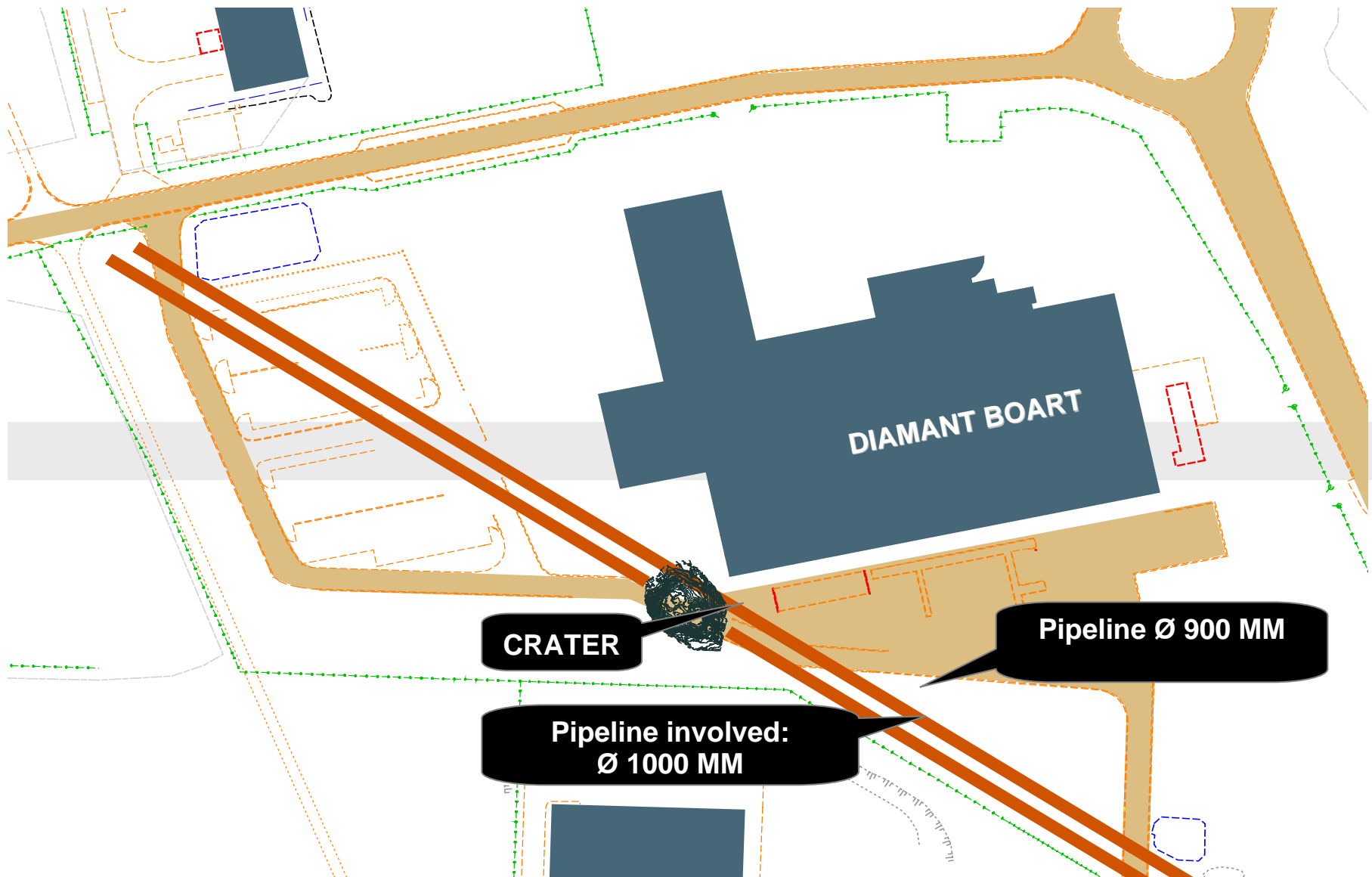
Gas network in Belgium



Gellingen location



Ministerie van Economische Zaken



What went wrong?

- Pipeline undergoing maintenance (pressure from 80 to 50 bar);
- Work on site (levelling the ground using excavator or spader);
- Reduced cover above the pipe;
- Pipe damaged during work (75% reduced wall thickness);
- 30 July 2004 pipe back in use. (pressure from 50 to 80 bar);
- At 8:45 smell of gas reported;
- 9:00 fire on site and pipe splits open;
- 9:01 Explosion!!!!

Victims

- 24 dead including 5 firemen and 1 policeman.
- 132 injured of which 25 with life-threatening burns
- Chief inspector Stéphane Delfosse of Ath police force was the only person to survive the zero perimeter. He was standing **15 metres** from the leak when the pipeline failed under the high pressure*.

Why were there so many victims?

- No central direction!
- People ran towards the leaking pipe instead of keeping a safe distance.

* He owes his life to a driver who took him to the hospital in Ath, and the doctor at the hospital who immediately transferred him to Neder-Over-Heembeek. He was in a coma for 4 months, and suffered 3rd degree burns over 50% of his body. He has already undergone 25 operations ...

Details of the pipeline

Pipeline:	HD natural gas pipeline
Number:	2
Owner:	Fluxys (network manager)
Route:	Zeebrugge - Blaregnies
Diameter:	39" (1000 mm)
Pressure in the pipeline:	80 bar
Size of the opening:	guillotine break

Observations concerning the gas leak

What you see – small leak:

brown or scorched vegetation around the pipeline

a cloud or mist around the pipeline

rising dirt

bubbles from a canal, lake or river

flames

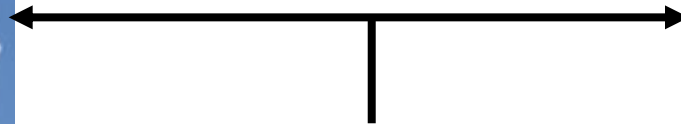
formation of ice around the pipeline

dead insects

What you see – large leak:

white rising cloud

A cloud of gas



Photos taken
from a distance of
approx. 9 km
At approx. 1 min
intervals

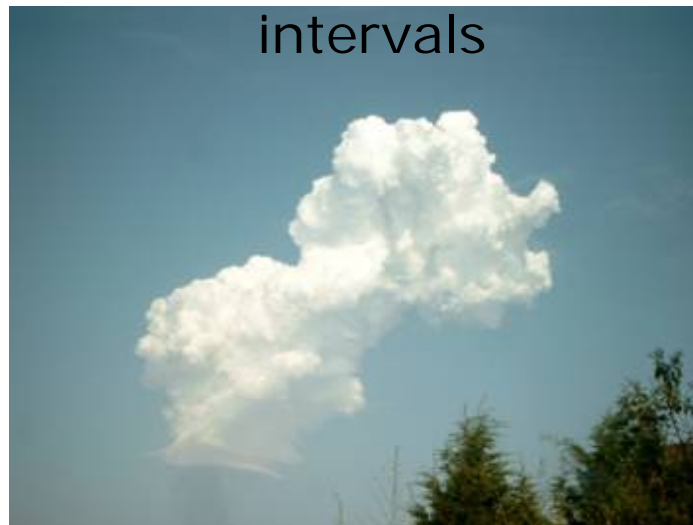
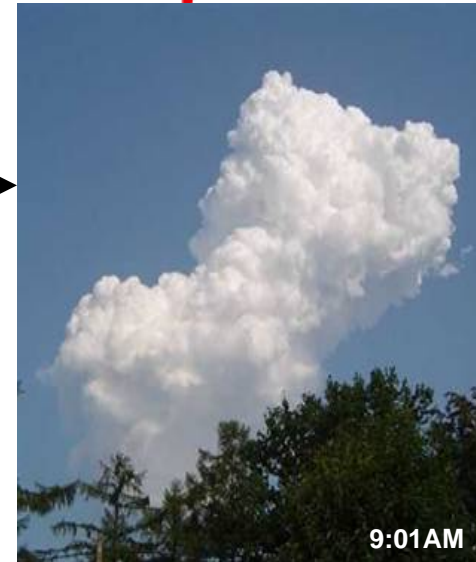


Photo taken
approx. 15 km
from Gellinggen

Other observations - a sea of flames



Max. height 450m
Av. height 250m

Action plan

Actiekaart 1: aardgas

Interventies bij HD (> 14,7 bar) ondergrondse aardgasleidingen

✓ Effectafstanden

Afhankelijk van de leidingdiameter die indien nodig op te vragen is bij Fluxys.
Neem bij onzekerheid de afstand behorende bij de eerstvolgende grotere leidingdiameter

Stralingseffecten: Berekeningen bij startdruk van 80 bar, vrije, verticale uitstroom! Geen wind!

Tabel 1:

opening	Leidingdiameter in mm	Geluid 90 dbA Straal in m	Zone 1 Straal in m HBD				Zone 2 Straal in m 3 kW/m ² na 300 s				Zone 3 Straal in m			
			Gullotine breuk		10% diameter		Gullotine breuk		10% diameter		Gullotine breuk		10% diameter	
			B R A N D											
100	75	75	30	50	5	6	60	90	11	11	100	100	50	50
200	75	75	60	100	7	11	140	210	24	24	200	200	50	50
300	75	75	80	150	10	16	220	320	37	37	300	300	50	50
400	150	150	110	200	12	21	290	430	49	49	400	400	100	100
500	150	150	130	240	15	27	360	520	64	64	500	500	100	100
600	150	150	140	290	16	33	430	610	78	78	600	600	100	100
700	150	150	160	340	19	39	500	700	92	92	700	700	150	150
800	250	250	180	380	21	45	570	780	106	106	800	800	150	150
900	250	250	190	430	23	51	640	870	121	121	900	900	150	150
1000	250	250	210	470	25	57	710	960	135	135	1000	1000	150	150
1200	250	250	230	560	29	68	800	1130	160	160	1200	1200	200	200
			Zone 1 110 kW/m ² na 30 s				Zone 2 3 kW/m ² na 30 s				Zone 3			
G E E N B R A N D														

✓ Acties

- Blijf bovenwinds
- Voer explosiegevaars- en zuurstofmetingen uit met adembescherming en volledige interventiekledij, en activeer indien mogelijk het meetplan.

Specifieke acties voor aardgas

- Ontstekingsbronnen indien mogelijk verwijderen
- Laat bij aankomst alle elektrische apparatuur achter in de auto.
- In geval het gas brandt: niet blussen.
- Nevenbranden buiten de zone 1 (met inachtneming van eigen veiligheid) blussen.
- Bescherming bieden aan aangestraalde structuren met nevelstralen.

Ontsteking van het gas (fakkelbrand)!

Ga nooit in Zone 1!

Ga, indien strikt noodzakelijk, enkel in de zone 2 met interventiekledij, adembescherming en hittewerende kledij voor specifieke actie zoals
- reddingen met inachtneming van eigen veiligheid en met minimale personeelssterkte!
- acties teneinde het ontsnapt product te beheersen (o.a. hulp bij dichtdraaien afsluiter-brandweer doet dit nooit zelf!)

Uitgestelde evacuatie = personen die zich binnen zone 2 bevinden en beschermd zijn door een gebouw worden binnen gehouden (De evacuatie wordt uitgesteld totdat de stralingsintensiteit beduidend gedaald is!)

Nog geen ontsteking van het gas!

Ga nooit in zone 1 tenzij met interventiekledij, adembescherming en eventueel hittewerende kledij om

- preventieve evacuaties en
- acties teneinde het ontsnapt product te beheersen (o.a. hulp bij dichtdraaien afsluiter-brandweer doet dit nooit zelf!)

- preventieve evacuaties = evacuatie van alle personen binnen de HBD en van de niet door gebouwen en structuren beschermde personen in zone 2, met inachtneming van eigen veiligheid en met minimale personeelssterkte!
- uitgestelde evacuatie = personen die zich binnen zone 2, maar buiten de HBD, bevinden en beschermd zijn door een gebouw worden binnen gehouden (De evacuatie wordt uitgesteld totdat de stralingsintensiteit beduidend gedaald is!)

Bij gasontsnapping: De ontstekingsgrens ligt ruim binnen de gevarengrenzen bij brand.

Drukeffecten: Liggen binnen de gevarengrenzen bij brand.

ZONE 1: de verboden zone wordt omschreven als de zone met een hoge kans op letaliteit, die enkel in zeer uitzonderlijke omstandigheden na gepaste risico-afweging en met de vereiste beschermende kledij mag betreden worden.

ZONE 2: zone die alleen mag betreden worden door de brandweer in de vereiste beschermende kledij en met inachtneming van de eigen veiligheid (= Rode zone KB).

ZONE 3: de isolatiezone: enkel de interveniërende hulpdiensten mogen van buitenaf naar binnengaan. Wie binnen deze zone is mag er blijven. Personen die uit binnengelegen zones geëvacueerd werden moeten minstens tot buiten deze zone 3 gebracht worden (= Oranje zone KB)

Details of the action plan

The action plan indicates that if there is a fire as a consequence of a guillotine break in a gas pipeline with a diameter of **1000** mm, the following zones are assigned:

- Zone 1 (10 kW/m² after 30 secs): **210** m
- Zone 2 (3 kW/m² after 30 secs): **710** m
- Zone 3: **1000** m

Heat radiation

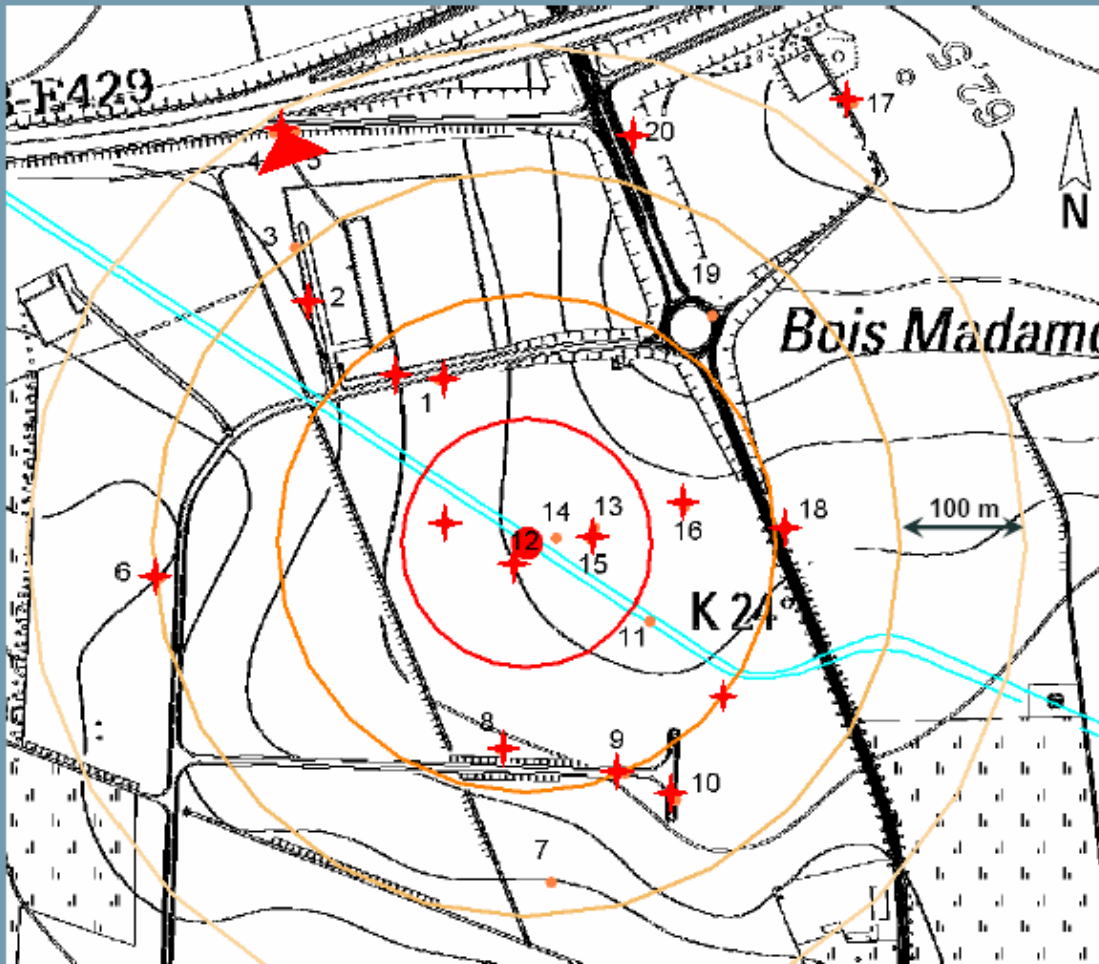
- 1 kW/m²** : Sun (warm summer day)¹
- 3 kW/m²** : 10 s = pain threshold (unprotected skin), an individual (without protection) is still just able to get away from the seat of the fire in these 10 s
- 5 kW/m²** : 5 s = pain threshold (unprotected skin)
minutes = 2nd and 3rd degree burns
- 8 kW/m²** : 0.1 % chance of death after 20 s
- 10 kW/m²** 1% chance of death after 20 s
cooling of installations to prevent collapse
secondary burns after minutes of exposure

Zone classification

- ZONE 1:** the forbidden zone is described as the **zone with a high chance of mortality** which may be entered only in highly exceptional circumstances following appropriate risk assessment and with the required protective clothing.
- ZONE 2:** zone which **may be entered only by the fire services wearing required protective clothing** and paying attention to their own safety.
- ZONE 3:** the **isolation zone**: only the intervening emergency services may enter this zone from outside. Anyone within this zone may stay there. People evacuated from inner zones must at least be taken outside this zone.

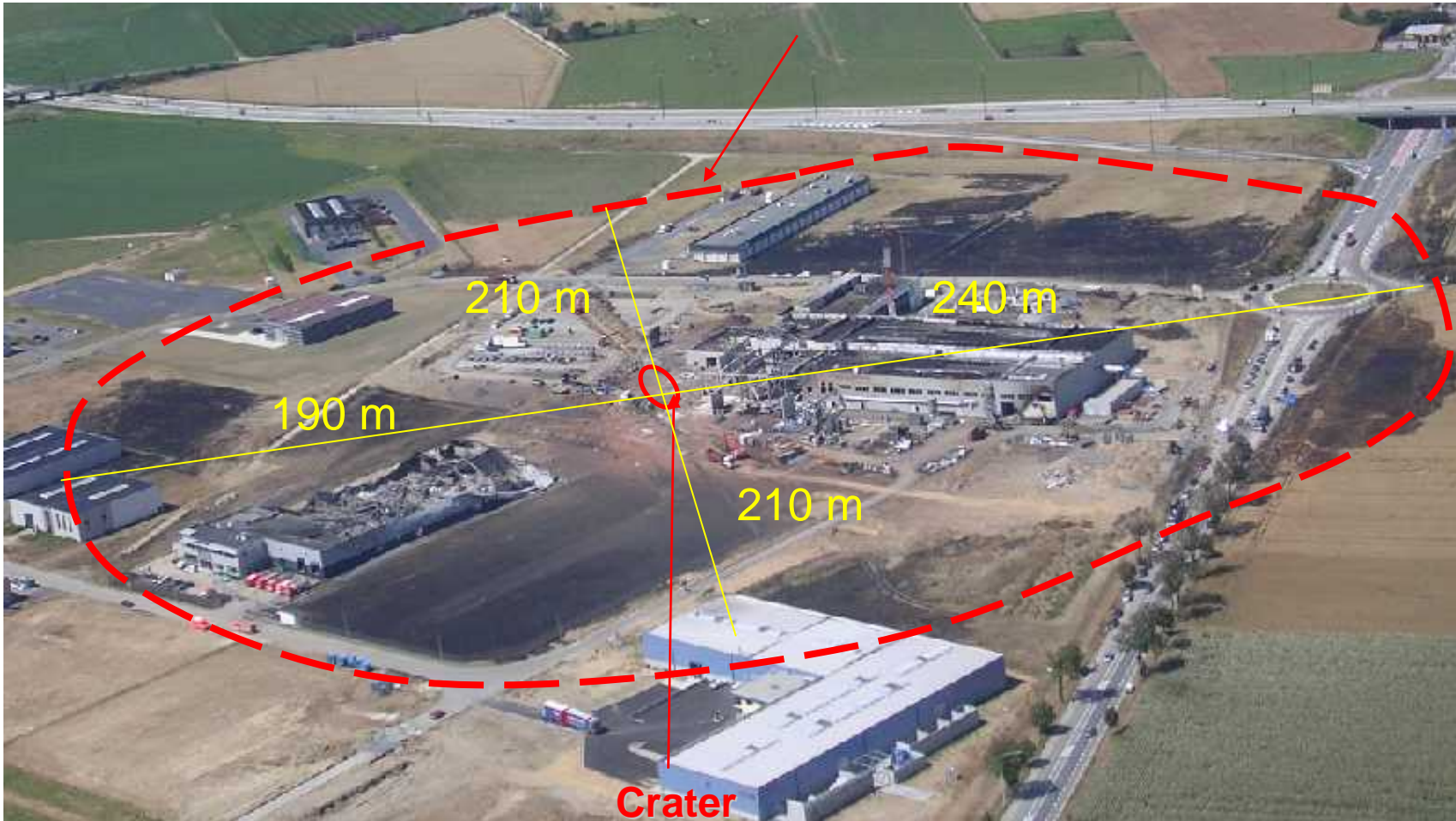
Location of the disaster area relative to the E429

Observaties : Schade



Verification

Zone heavily affected by the heat = House burning distance



Observations: Damage from heat radiation

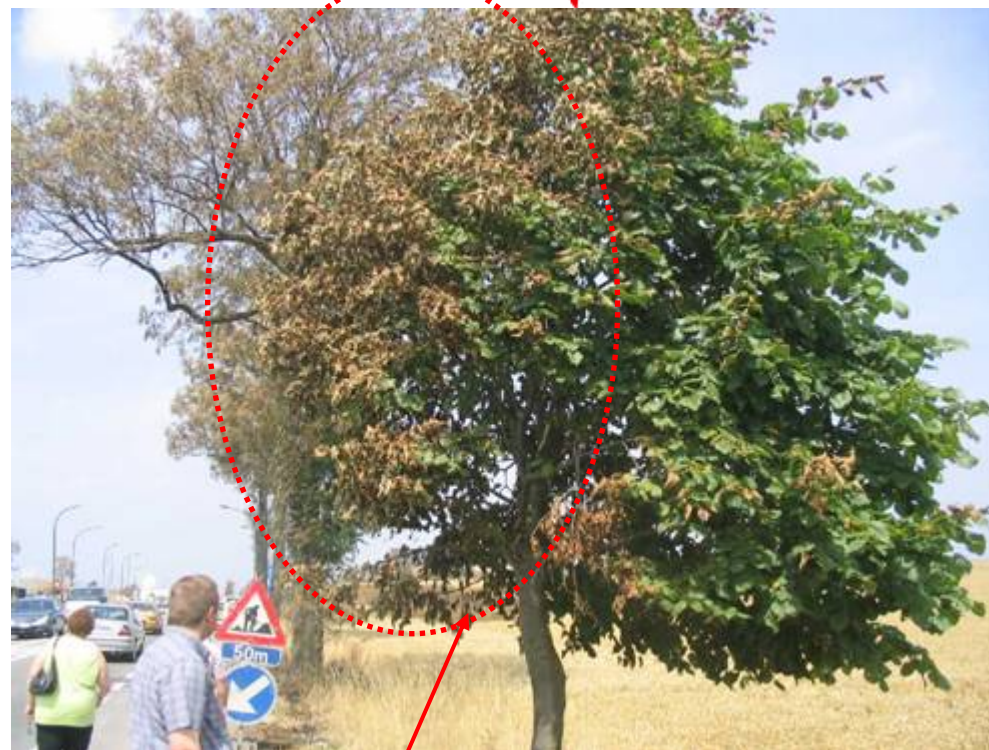
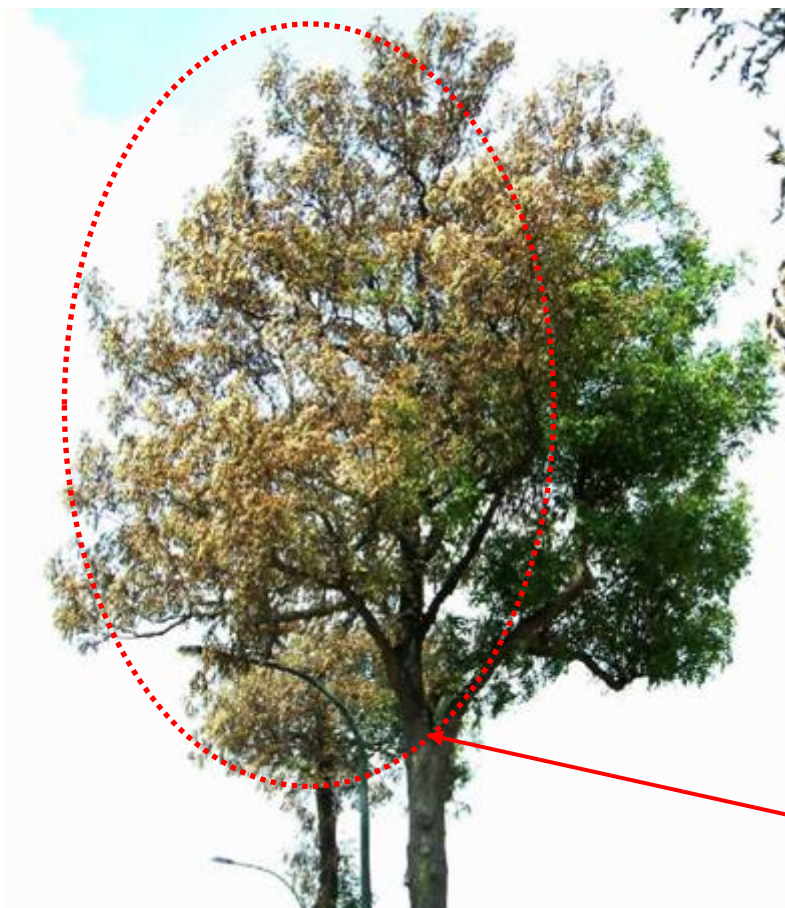


Observations: Damage from heat radiation



approx. 160 m from crater

Observations: Damage from heat radiation



Dried leaves

Along the road
Approx. 210 m from crater

Wood ignited



Observations: Damage from heat radiation



Radiation flux: approx. 13 kW/m^2

approx. 240 m from the crater

Observations: Damage from heat radiation



approx. 155 m from crater

Observations: Damage from heat radiation



approx. 260 m from crater

Observations: Damage from heat radiation



approx. 9 m

approx. 8 m

→ **Flame height must be at least approx. 190 m or cars would not have been exposed to heat radiation**

Observations: Damage from heat radiation



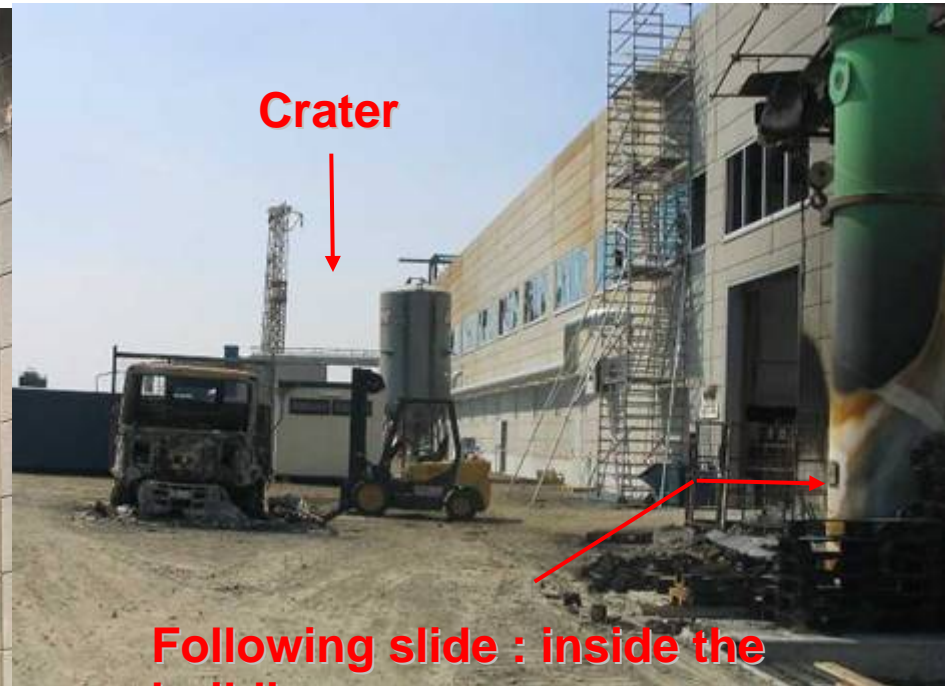
Observations: Damage from heat radiation

Street lighting melted along the motorway



approx. 340 m from crater

Observations: Damage from heat radiation



**Following slide : inside the building
approx. 130 m from crater
Wood ignited**

Observations



!!! No damage within the building !!!
approx. 130 m from crater

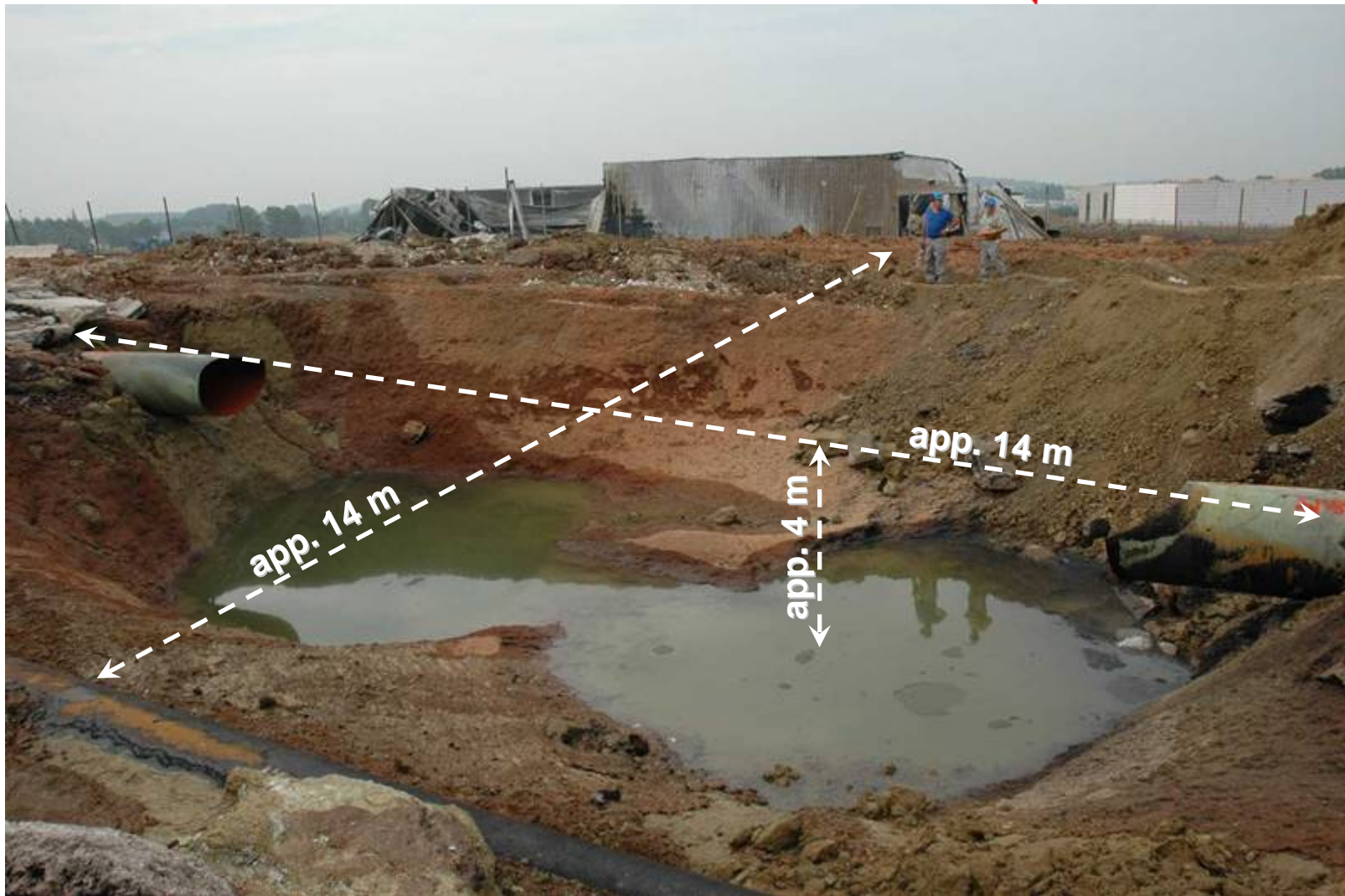
Details of the action plan

The action plan indicates that if there is a fire as a consequence of a guillotine break in a gas pipeline with a diameter of **1000** mm, a sound level of 90 dbA will extend 250 metres.

Observation:

the sound exceeded the pain threshold!

The explosion



View of the crater.

The explosion



The section of pipeline was found approx. 155 m from the crater.

Damage caused by the explosion (pressure wave)

Pressure in bar	Damage	
	People	Materials
0.01		Some broken windows
0.02	Temporary damage to hearing	
0.03		Broken windows (chance of fatal fragmentation)
0.05 - 0.1		Roofs and facades destroyed
0.1 - 0.2	Collapse	Brick walls destroyed
0.2		Atmospheric storage tanks damaged
0.3	Burst eardrums	Damage to equipment
0.4		Concrete walls destroyed (20 cm)
0.5		Full tank wagons tip over
1.0	Lung damage	
2.0	Death	

Damage caused by the explosion



Damage caused by the explosion

