SHARP START

DECEMBER 11 — Caustic Control

Description	Corrective Action Taken
Residual caustic on ground from cleaning out caustic lines going to a pump that was removed from service	Stopped employees from working and assisted them in making sure they cleaned the area very well after cleaning the equipment out

Caustic residue sat on the floor — a small, white puddle nobody noticed because the crew was knee-deep in the task. Distraction tugged their focus away; task saturation shrunk their world to the one job in front of them. But caustic doesn't wait politely for attention.

A puddle left where boots may tread,
Turns simple steps to fear instead.
Wipe it fast and clear the way
So burns and slips stay far away.

Leaving caustic on the floor is like spilling oil all over your garage and pretending you'll deal with it later. You won't — not until you slip or spark something.

Hazards

- Chemical burns
- PPE degradation
- Slip hazard
- Housekeeping violation

Stats

- **8,000+** caustic injuries annually
- **25%** of chemical slip injuries involve residue on floors
- Delayed cleanup increases injury likelihood **40%**

Words of Wisdom

Clean corrosive spills immediately.

If it can burn concrete, it can burn you quicker.

Pause and Think

Task overload happens when you're given more work, decisions, or information than your brain can safely process at once. When overload hits, you start missing steps, overlooking hazards, and making mistakes because your attention is stretched too thin. Too many demands at the same time cause your focus, judgment, and reaction time to drop, which creates the perfect setup for an incident.

- "Where do you see chemical residues get ignored the most?"
- "How does task overload affect your hazard awareness?"
- "What's our quickest, most effective spill-response step?"