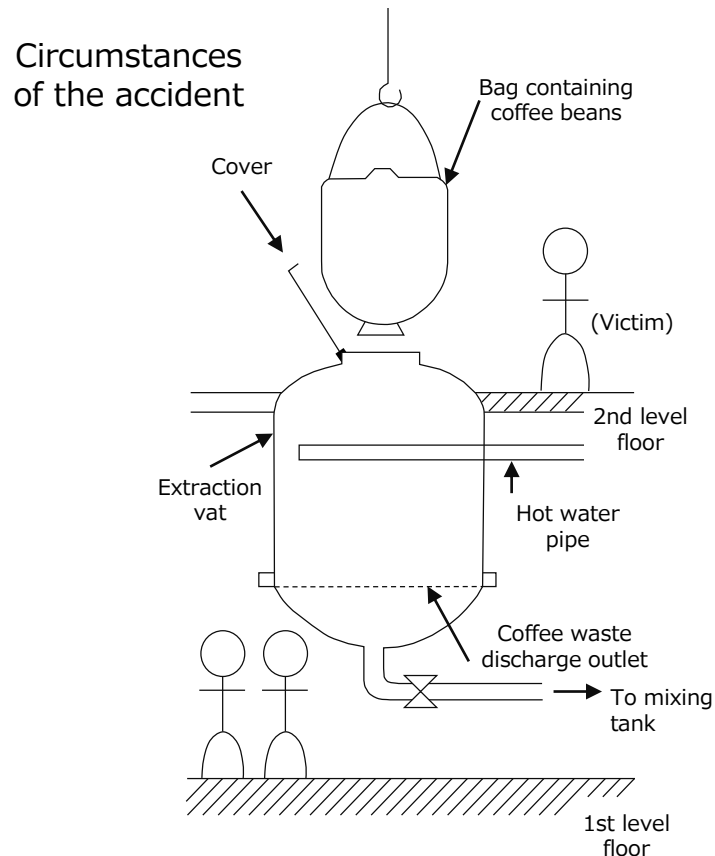


Case involving poisoning due to carbon monoxide generated from coffee beans



[Location of accident]

Inside a vat used to extract a coffee concentrate solution installed on the production line for canned coffee in a plant producing canned beverages

[Cause of accident]

As the coffee concentrate solution was extracted by pouring hot water into the extraction vat holding roasted coffee beans, carbon monoxide adsorbed to the roasted coffee beans was released all at once, collecting inside the enclosed extraction vat. The accident occurred after extraction when the victim attempted to recover a rod used to level the coffee beans dropped inside the vat.

[Damage/injuries]

The victim was exposed to gas when discharging the residual coffee bean waste and fell inside the vat. The victim was unconscious when rescued from inside the vat and taken to the hospital. The victim was diagnosed with carbon monoxide poisoning and died approximately one month later.

Extract from [Preventive measures]

[2] Workers must not enter coffee extraction vats until they are fully ventilated.



Riken Keiki Recommendations

Carbon monoxide is a tasteless and odorless gas. Measuring gas concentrations helps confirm adequate ventilation. We also recommend that workers wear portable carbon monoxide monitors to protect against carbon monoxide poisoning such as due to leaks from extraction vats.