Module 2, Scenario 15

On March 23, 2008, a huge blast hit a meat packing plant in Booneville, Arkansas. The fire was caused by contractors who were welding. The fire burned out of control for several hours despite the efforts by several agencies. The fire caused at least one ammonia tank to explode, sending ammonia into the air. Residents within a half-mile were evacuated. A second evacuation was ordered on March 24, 2008 to protect residents against another possible ammonia tank explosion.

The company decided not to reopen this plant, which had been the area’s biggest employer.