

# Amber Alert

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GUILD OF CLEANERS  
AND LAUNDERERS

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AMBER ALERT

## Newspaper Headlines Following an Incident in a Dry Cleaner's Shop Where a Man Died

On Saturday 5th of October there was an incident at Taniya Dry Cleaners, Wandsworth Road, Vauxhall, London where a man died in a dry cleaning shop sometime after 4.00 pm. It is alleged that fumes were involved and pictures taken after the Ambulance and Fire Brigade had been called can be seen on the right and you can read the newspaper reports by logging onto the links at the foot of the page.

In brief the narrative stated - A man believed to be in his 60s died in a dry cleaning shop after inhaling fumes. Police were called to a business in Wandsworth Road, Vauxhall, London, at about 4.30pm on Saturday, October 5. Officers and paramedics tried to enter the property, but were overcome by fumes. Fire fighters entered with special breathing apparatus and took the man out of the building. The London Ambulance Service (LAS) treated the man, but he was pronounced dead at the scene at 5.50pm. A spokeswoman for the LAS said: "Our staff treated one patient, a man in his 60s - he was in cardiac arrest. " "Sadly he died at the scene." A post mortem examination has been arranged, while inquiries are being made. The Health and Safety Executive have been informed.

We have no way of knowing what really happened at present but it is a sad reminder to all that we should take maximum precautions when handling solvents. 'Solvent Precaution Notices' are available from suppliers of solvents or from dry cleaning machine suppliers. You could even draw up your own notice using information from the hazard data sheet supplied with the solvent. Also, ensure the premises are provided with adequate mechanical ventilation taking vapours away from operator positions.

Have the people who operate, or maintain, the machine been trained, and do they know what to do if problems arise? The machine operation manual should give full details of how to maintain the machine, and you should always use a competent engineer for major repairs and servicing. If the machine is fitted with a still, and this involves any rake out cleaning this must only be done when it is cold, and another person should be in attendance on the premises. Also, check that any gas fired boiler is not emitting carbon monoxide fumes which are poisonous causing tiredness, drowsiness, headache, and pains in the chest and stomach. A written evacuation plan, which all staff members know and practice, is part of a good health and safety policy. You should also be aware, and emphasise to staff, that the control of solvent emission is part of a dry cleaners permit under SED legislation.



[http://www.wandsworthguardian.co.uk/news/10721821.Man\\_in\\_his\\_60s\\_dies\\_in\\_dry\\_cleaning\\_shop\\_from\\_fumes/?ref=rss](http://www.wandsworthguardian.co.uk/news/10721821.Man_in_his_60s_dies_in_dry_cleaning_shop_from_fumes/?ref=rss)

<http://www.demotix.com/news/2876086/man-dies-south-london-gas-incident#media-2876054>