

Tank Explodes in Braybrook Oil Plant Fire

Two employees received minor burns yesterday when a fire, in a Braybrook oil plant, caused a tank of solvent to explode.

It is the second fire in six months at the Leroc Oil Co. Pty. Ltd.'s refinery in Ballarat-road, Braybrook.

The fire occurred during the luncheon break and only five of the plant's workers were present.

Two workers, Jack Emmett and Ray Cox, ran to the solvent plant to turn off electrical equipment.

As they reached the plant a bath containing 40 gallons of solvent exploded with a terrific flash.

Cox, who was ahead of Emmett, was burned on the arms and face by flaming solvent.

Joseph Kusiak, a New Australian, fell against a red hot oil drum, and suffered burns on the arms and shoulder.

In the previous fire, on September 12, 1950, damage was estimated at £20,000.

The company's manager (Mr. M. J. Graham) would not estimate the damage yesterday, but he did not think it would be as great as in the previous blaze.