

BREMSETH LAW FIRM

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CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT – HYDRO CARBON EXPOSURE

Dustin Bergsing was born on January 12, 1990, and he died five days before his 22nd birthday. He was in the prime of his life, and he had just become a father. He took a high paying job in the Bakken oil field to support his mother, his fiancé, and his infant child. Dustin Bergsing was a healthy and athletic young man, and was a champion rodeo rider. He started working the Bakken oil field as a well watcher in September, 2011.

Dustin's job was to climb on the catwalk, open the hatches on the tanks, and inspect the quantity of oil in the tanks every two hours, twenty four hours a day, while living in a trailer at the isolated well site. The last time Dustin Bergsing opened the hatch to inspect the tank was between 10:00 p.m. January 6, 2012 and 1:00 a.m. January 7, 2012.

Shortly after 1:00 a.m., a co-worker responded to a high oil level alarm, and found Dustin dead on the catwalk in front of an open hatch on one of the oil tanks. The North Dakota State Coroner performed an autopsy, submitted fluid samples for testing and gave the opinion that the death was caused by hydrocarbon poisoning several months later. Shortly after the death, we hired an expert forensic pathologist from Billings, to perform a second autopsy on Dustin. That autopsy concluded that Dustin was killed by VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds).

After the lawsuit was filed, we obtained discovery from an oil company engineer. He testified he warned his supervisors, other company engineers, and executives in the oil company that some of the new wells in the Bakken formation had a very serious and potentially deadly problem with excessive VOC gas pressure and leakage in oil recovery tanks like the one Dustin Bergsing was killed on.

As a result of our discovery efforts, we were able to obtain a very substantial confidential sum.