

## 《湖北仙桃造纸厂4名工人中毒身亡》

WUHAN - Four workers were suffocated to death Monday while cleaning a waste pulp sink at a paper mill in Central China's Hubei province, local authorities said.

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A preliminary investigation indicated they were poisoned by toxic gas, the city government of Xiantao said in a press release Tuesday.

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It said the accident happened at 9 am at Shengda Paper Industrial Co Ltd. in Zhanggou Township.

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Qiao Bencai, a temporary employee, was sent down the 2.8-meter deep sink at 8:30 am, but passed out while cleaning the waste pulp, the document said.

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Three colleagues, including a workshop manager, went down to his rescue, but fainted in the sink, too.

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All four had died when they were pulled out.

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It said the exact cause of their deaths was still under investigation.

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Many paper mills use chlorine gas to bleach pulp for white paper and dangerous pollution is often created as a byproduct.

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