

## Controversies Umicore

- In October 2020, after reports of high levels of lead in children's blood, [Umicore offers to buy houses surrounding](#) its facility in Antwerp, Belgium.
- In Mars 2020, [a fire was reported](#) at Umicore's facility in Antwerp, Belgium. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- In July 2019, a [fire](#) was reported at Umicore's facility in Antwerp, Belgium. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- In September 2018, a man was reported killed after an [explosion](#) at Umicore Specialty Chemicals in Arab, Alabama.
- In September 2018, a [fire](#) was reported at Umicore's Hoboken facility in Antwerp. No casualties or injuries were reported.
- In July 2018, the prefect of the Gard, France initiated a formal notice procedure aimed at forcing Umicore to confine five former mining sites at Saint-Félix de Pallières and Thoiras. A study from [Public Health France](#) released earlier that month had shown high body burden of arsenic and cadmium among the population around the mines in comparison to the general population.
- In January 2014, two workers repairing a tank at Umicore in Olen, Antwerp province, were killed when the [tank containing residue of hydrochloric acid exploded](#). The investigation into the accident indicated that an unexpected accumulation of cobalt metal led to a build-up of hydrogen in a storage tank. The tank then exploded during maintenance work, without the two employees involved having made any mistakes.
- Between 2011 and 2020, Umicore [paid 70,000 USD in fines for one environmental violation](#), according to the violation tracker project of Good Jobs First.