

A CLOSE CALL
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It seems that I have run out of car stories so I'm going to tell you about a close call I had as a teenager living on the farm. The farm we lived on was divided in half, fifty acres where the house and barns were located and fifty acres a quarter mile down the road. This parcel had once had a house on it, but all that was left when we bought it was the basement, which we used for a landfill.

My folks had replaced our old refrigerator with a new model and now my Mom wanted the old refrigerator out of her sight. So I hitched up our dump trailer to our trusty International Farmall H tractor and loaded up the old refrigerator. However, when I laid the refrigerator down in the trailer I noticed it had a neat air compressor that just might come in handy someday. So I checked the toolbox on the tractor to make sure I had the tools to remove the air compressor and it seemed likely.

When I got to the landfill site I grabbed the tools and went to work removing the air compressor. All went well getting it unbolted except I did not have a wrench big enough to disconnect a copper line running from the compressor. No problem, I would just bend it back and forth until the line broke.

Being a teenager, I thought this line had to be an air-line! When the line did break I now had Freon spraying right at me, so I took off running. That was the last thing I remembered until I woke up laying on the ground with everything around me white as snow. I thought that I had died and gone to heaven! Then I realized where I was and figured out that the Freon had frosted everything around me. I now decided that maybe I didn't need that air compressor after all. I pushed the refrigerator off the trailer into the hole and got out of there as fast as I could.

I didn't tell anyone what had happened that day, but one day when all the family was in the car going to church, my Dad noticed as we drove pass the landfill, a small tree had died. My Dad asked, "What do you suppose caused that tree to die?" I knew, but I wasn't about to tell!