

Step Change Safety Alert Template (Internal Talisman Use Only)

STEP CHANGE IN SAFETY



Alert Title

Hydrocarbon release from small bore tubing on NGL pumps

Incident Date

24th March, 2012

Summary

Minor hydrocarbon release from "T" fitting on small bore pipe work associated with NGL Pumps

Incident Consequences

Hydrocarbon Release

Cause of Accident or Incident

Uncontrolled Release of a Flammable Gas or Liquid

Location

Fixed Installation

Activity

Production Operations

Description of What Happened

Riggers working in a confined area on the Cellar Deck area noticed a liquid Hydrocarbon release from some small bore tubing (SBT) near the NGL pumps shortly after they had made contact with the pipe work. They made their work site safe and reported to the CCR. A Technician was sent to investigate and an attempt made to isolate the SBT without success as the valves were found to be in poor condition. The decision was taken to switch the turbine generators to diesel and the cold plant (i.e. the NGL source of the hydrocarbon) depressurised. The leak then dissipated.

Specific Equipment

Small bore tubing on NGL pumps

Lessons Learnt

- Confined workspace had not been identified by site visits or considered as part of the work planning
- Small bore pipe work was unsupported, and awareness of potential for failure was lacking
- P&IDs did not reflect the actual build of the small bore pipe work.
- Although pump was no longer required, cold NGL still passed through the equipment. Combined with a lack of maintenance this can contribute to seal failure.

Task Description:

Pipe work was being moved through the module in the proximity of the NGL pumps & directly alongside the unsupported small bore tubing. The workspace was very confined and the associated permits did not reflect the potential issues with the tubing.

Recommendations

- Install suitable support for the tubing
- Update P&IDs to accurately reflect the pipe work configuration
- Site briefings, work packs updated to improve awareness of confined area working and potential to damage small bore tubing.
- Fully decommission & remove NGL pumps and pipe work, to replace with new pipe run from Cold separator to NGL heater

Contact Details:

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