

Alert Title

Hydrocarbon Release from failed grease nipple on Gas Lift Manifold

Incident Date

16/02/2013

Location Type

Fixed Production Platform

Specific Equipment Involved

ESDV on Gas Lift Manifold

Description of What Happened

Scaffolding foreman smelled gas in the vicinity of the gas lift manifolds and reported this to the CCR. The CCR immediately responded and sent an operator who identifies the release to be from a gas lift manifold.

Prod Sup and PTL requested to attend and gas tests conducted to determine level of emission.

Based on the level of detection, (in excess of reporting parameters) the decision was taken to isolate the leak by shutting down the export gas compressor.

The immediate cause was identified as a failed grease nipple. The area was frosted up around the local area of valve where the nipple is located and a gas vapour was visible emanating from the grease nipple.

Due to the location of the ESDV and proximity to a walkway it is unlikely that this could have gone unnoticed for any significant period of time by either detection or personal intervention so escalation was unlikely.

Cause of Incident

The primary cause of failure was a heavily corroded stem grease nipple and damage to a stem 'o' ring seal, preventing the 'o' ring from providing a positive seal and leading to the loss of pressure containment.

Incident Consequences

Hydrocarbon release.

Lessons Learned

- Valve maintenance inadequate, no routine maintenance existed.
- Inspection regime inadequate.

Recommendations/Actions

- Review valve maintenance processes and competencies to ensure sufficient scrutiny of this type of failure.
- Utilise optical gas imaging camera to proactively search for and identify emissions at an early stage.

Contact Details (Optional)

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