

Step Change Safety Alert Template



Alert Title

Minor hydrocarbon release during calibration of pressure transmitter

What leaked and where from? E.g.: "Lube oil leak from compressor system open vent"

Incident Date

August 2011

The date on which the incident occurred, not when this form was completed

Location Type

Fixed production installation

E.g. Floating/Fixed Production, Drill Rig, Vessel, etc.

Specific Equipment Involved

Topsides hydrocarbon piping and instrumentation

Give as much detail as possible about the equipment involved

Description of What Happened

During a task to calibrate a pressure transmitter, the instrument technician identified the isolation valve from the scaffold and incorrectly assumed that it was in the isolated state. He opened up a bleed to drain liquids and initially drained approximately 5 litres of fluid from the line to the bucket. The flow stopped and then after approximately 20 seconds, hydrocarbons (mostly gas) at 60bar were released from the half inch line for a maximum of 20 seconds. The technician closed the valve and made the area safe. Two gas detectors in the area came into low alarm (11% and 15%). The total quantity of hydrocarbon released has been estimated at 0.833kg.

Be as detailed as possible. Give equipment history and approximate time(s) of actions/occurrences related to the incident

Cause of Incident

Incorrect isolation of pressure transmitter

Build from OIR/12 checklist

Incident Consequences

Hydrocarbon release

Include the release itself and any subsequent emergency actions/dangerous occurrences

Lessons Learned

- The need to verify adequate isolations are in place before breaking containment on a system.

Include a few bullet points clarifying what was learned from the incident

Recommendations/Actions

- All routines with personal mechanical isolations to be updated to include the requirement for the Area Operator to verify the location of the personal mechanical isolation and isolation tag at site check.
- Review the current personal isolation training programme to ensure that all elements of personal mechanical isolations are adequately understood and covered.
- Time out for safety to be held with all instrument technicians across all shifts to roll out personal isolation standards, correct use of earth straps, placement of isolation tags and limitations of personal isolations.

Include a few bullet points stating any recommendations/actions that will be made/taken as a result of the lessons learned

Contact Details (Optional)

If you would like your submission to be anonymous, leave this section blank