

SAFETY ALERT



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Trapped Pressure Ejects Rod From Chamber and Strikes Subsea Technician in the Face



Sheared Indicator rod ejected from Hands-Free Goose Neck (HFGN) cartridge operator striking a subsea technician's safety glasses.

During blow-out preventer equipment pressure testing operations, a subsea technician sustained an injury while removing the Hands-Free Goose Neck (HFGN) locking cylinder assembly bolts. The technician was performing a work-around procedure when a sheared indicator rod ejected from the back side of the HFGN cartridge operator, striking the technician's safety glasses and face. The rod then continued to travel past two supervisors and landed on the upper moon pool platform.

An [investigation](#) indicated that the choke and kill stab locks would not retract because both the indicator rods sheared. The contractor's maintenance records showed the indicator rods sheared several months earlier but were not repaired or replaced. Instead of fixing the sheared indicator rods, the subsea team performed a work-around procedure to retract the choke and kill stab locks. This work-around did not note the hazard of indicator rods loose inside the cartridge operator flange after both sheared from the de-coupling segments.

BSEE recommends that operators and contractors consider the following:

- Maintain equipment in accordance with OEM specifications;
- Follow proper procedures when performing work orders;
- Do not use "Out of Service" equipment;
- Do not create work-around procedures for "Out of Service" equipment; and,

- Always be cognizant of potential trapped pressure and note this as a hazard on procedures and Job Safety Analysis.

--BSEE--

A Safety Alert is a tool used by BSEE to inform the offshore oil and gas industry of the circumstances surrounding a potential safety issue. It also contains recommendations that could assist avoiding potential incidents on the Outer Continental Shelf.