

Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate

Safety Alert No. 43
21 September 2009

Broken leg from coal seam gas sampling incident involving high pressure.

ATTENTION: All workers and companies involved in the oil and gas industry.

What happened?

A gas sampling contractor was struck by a flying fragment from an exploded gas filter. The filter had been exposed to a pressure that exceeded its design specifications (1,600kPa). The filter was being used as part of a gas sampling kit on the high pressure (9,000kPa) product end of a coal seam gas processing plant. One of the contractor technicians undertaking the work sustained a broken leg and related soft tissue damage.

While the exact causes of the incident are still to be determined, this safety alert is a reminder to all operators, staff, their employees and contractors to take particular care when selecting components to be used on high pressure gas systems.



Pig receiver and sampling point

Safety issues identified

- Incorrect selection of filter type for the application.
- Contractors had no formal training in high pressure sampling and had not directly undertaken work before.
- Lack of risk assessment, identification of hazards and use of standard operating procedures when taking gas samples.
- Poor implementation and adherence to existing:

- permit to work systems
- company policies and procedures
- contractor supervision

Recommendations

- Gas sampling connection and disconnection procedures to include requirements for correct sequence of events and specify the type and rating of components that form the sampling kit.
- Dedicated sampling point to be provided if regular sampling is a standard requirement at the facility.
- Organisations to immediately review their:
 - Hazard registers
 - Risk assessments
 - Standard operating procedures (SOPs)
 - Job safety analyses (JSAs)
 - Contractor training and supervision requirements.



Damaged filter

For further information, please contact:

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