

Process Safety Forum

Safety Alert #009 – Issued on 24/02/2014

Breathing Apparatus – Line Set/Trolley

This safety alert is shared in order to promote learning and improve safety. You should seek appropriate guidance regarding the relevance, accuracy, and completeness of this alert to your circumstances prior to implementation.

Issue

During cleaning of a tank which was previously in heavy fuel oil service, breathing apparatus (B/A) was in use. A coupling on the B/A air supply hose became unscrewed, whilst the contractor using it was inside the tank. The loss of air was immediately recognised, and the contractor switched to his emergency back-up cylinder and exited the tank safely.

In subsequent investigation it was discovered that this issue had arisen previously, and that the 'TUG TEST', which is required as part of pre-use checks, had been undertaken on both occasions. It is therefore recommended that a further "twist test" is carried out prior to use of such lines.



Learning

The following actions should be considered:

Action 1: B/A equipment should always be tested by the supplier pre-hire, to ensure that couplings are unable to be unscrewed.

Action 2: The introduction of a twist test by all wearers prior to use, using the following procedure:



Hold the end of the coupling



Try and twist the end. No movement should be observed.

Any movement requires the set to be returned and not used.



The shroud should now be checked and should be free to rotate



Connect the Male and Female ends



Now twist the hose to make sure there is no restriction on movement

Any defects should be reported

Further Consideration

None

The Process Safety Forum has been set up to provide an industry association platform whereby initiatives, best practice, lessons from incidents and process safety strategy can be distilled and shared across sectors, to influence our stakeholders (including the Regulators), and to drive the process safety management agenda. The Process Safety Forum consists of representatives from UKPIA, TSA, CIA, OGUK, CBA, RSSB, ENA, ECIA, UKLPG, BAMA, EIG, UKOPA, SWA, SDF, and MPA.

The website is www.p-s-f.org.uk. For further details contact: PSF.Secretary@gmail.com.