Step Change Safety Alert Template

Alert Title

Lube oil leak from compressor system open vent

Incident Date

23rd July, 2012

Summary

Lube oil leak (restricted to deck) from MP Gas Compressor system open vent

Incident Consequences

Lube Oil Hydrocarbon Release

Cause of Accident or Incident

Uncontrolled Release of a Flammable Gas or Liquid

Location

FPSO

Activity

Production Operations - Start-up

Description of What Happened

The MP Gas Compressor re-build had been in progress for some time. During dayshift on 22/07/12 the MP Compressor lube oil pump motor tails were re-connected and the pump de-isolated at the instruction of the Project Manager.

At approx. 0100 hrs on 23/07/12, the Electrical Techs decided to carry out a function test of the HV Breakers which were isolated, in order to prove the correct sequence of operation. A direct consequence of this work was the start-up of the auxiliary equipment, which included the electric lube oil pump. This is a design feature of the system control logic.

At approx 0230 hrs 23/07/12, a Production Tech was walking past the skid and noticed a lube oil leak at the MP Gas Compressor coming from the vent line on the lube oil pump discharge. He immediately activated the local stop button to stop the leak. He then went down to the Main Deck and put the local deck scuppers in order to prevent any oil leak to sea.

Specific Equipment

Vent line on MP Gas Compressor

Lessons Learnt

- Vent valves were not identified as environmentally critical and therefore not controlled as such under the isolation certificate
- Project managers role requires clarification – individuals assigned as Project Managers due to availability & role was not clearly defined
- Key positions involved were not correctly following ISSOW and TBT Procedures
- Area Authority aware that testing was occurring but was not aware of what was controlling the work
- Line walking discipline requires improvement, as line walk checks on other plant had identified all hydrocarbon capped fittings but not captured auxiliary (lube oil) systems

Task Description:

- Compressor rebuild

Recommendations

- Valves which may be environmentally sensitive to be tagged appropriately as Environmentally Critical
- Decision point where a work pack based approach is needed for this type of project to be clearly documented. Where this is the case, the appointment and attributes of a Project Mgr are also to be defined and appropriately communicated.
- Impact and consequence of this incident to be communicated to key involved parties

Contact Details:

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