

Step Change Safety Alert



Alert Title

Crude release into drain system due to crude cooler leak

Incident Date

31/01/2013

Location Type

Fixed Production Platform

Specific Equipment Involved

Crude cooler (plate type)

Description of What Happened

Crude cooler was under continuous monitoring following a leak the previous day after which the cooler was bypassed. Due to poor valve integrity however this had minimal effect and a further leak occurred. The crude pump was shut down and the cooler depressurised and isolated.

Cause of Incident

Equipment failed approximately six months after installation. The pressure fluctuation which may have initiated the leak was within normal operating parameters and the cooler was online as per normal operational status. The vendor involved in the assembly of the plate pack has been engaged accordingly.

The leak occurred due to internal failure and increased pressure. At the time of this event the cooler was offline, but with questionable isolation integrity – the leak was therefore avoidable if the situation had been fully recognised as a potential hydrocarbon containment failure.

Incident Consequences

The entire volume lost ran straight to the hazardous drains, and there was no HC detection triggered. There was no environmental impact and potential for escalation was minimal.

Lessons Learned

- Valve maintenance and inspection was inadequate.
- The quality of the cooler installation is under review.

Recommendations/Actions

- Change out valves.
- Engage with vendor regarding installation & commissioning
- Improve HCR awareness amongst site personnel

Contact Details (Optional)

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