Step Change Safety Alert

Alert Title

Hydrocarbon release from ring tight joint on a non-return valve.

Incident Date

6th May 2013.

Location Type

Fixed Production Platform.

Specific Equipment Involved

Ring tight joint on a non- return valve.

Description of What Happened

Maintenance work was completed on part of the topsides production systems which involved breaking a flange on a non-return valve. Following completion of the maintenance work, gas was reintroduced the system. Approximately 4hrs later an individual observed gas leaking from the flange of the non-return valve as well as evidence of icing. The individual alerted production personnel who closed a topside emergency shutdown valve and blew down locally.

Cause of Incident

Incorrect fitting of bolts after maintenance.

Incident Consequences

Hydrocarbon release and emergency shutdown action.

Lessons Learned

- On investigation, the break out results from the stud bolts showed that the bolts were under torqued.

Recommendations/Actions

- Ensure close adherence to torqueing procedures and ensure that the torque applied is revalidated when any hydrocarbon system flanges have been broken and made-up. This confirms the requirement to ensure that only competent personnel are involved in the breaking and make-up of bolted joints.

Contact Details (Optional)

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