Step Change Safety Alert Template

Alert Title

Controlled shutdown following reported smell of gas

What leaked and where from? E.g.: "Lube oil leak from compressor system open vent"

Incident Date

05/07/2013

The date on which the incident occurred, not when this form was completed

Location Type

Fixed Production

E.g. Floating/Fixed Production, Drill Rig, Vessel, etc.

Specific Equipment Involved

6" Fuel gas line

Give as much detail as possible about the equipment involved

Description of What Happened

Assailers working in CD 16 reported smelling gas which, on investigation, was identified as coming from below the insulation on a 6" fuel gas supply line
NO FIXED DETECTION WAS ACTIVATED however portable detection indicated 50% LEL at a distance of 10cm.
Area evacuated and a controlled shutdown initiated by platform operations staff

Be as detailed as possible. Give equipment history and approximate time(s) of actions/occurrences related to the incident

Cause of Incident

Corrosion under insulation caused by water ingress into the insulation

Build from OIR/12 checklist

Incident Consequences

Platform hydrocarbon production systems shutdown & made safe. Leaking line vented and isolated.
After removal of the insulation, corrosion was found at the release location.
The Identified hole was estimated at 0.5 mm, with the corrosion scab place, prior to cleaning. The hole that was found when the corroded area was cleaned measured 5 mm.
It is believed that the corrosion scab was effectively being held in compression against the hole by the insulation.

Include the release itself and any subsequent emergency actions/dangerous occurrences

Lessons Learned

Other than the inspection strategy, which leaves up to a 7 year gap between inspections, there is no process in place to prevent/monitor and repair damage to lagging before corrosion occurs. Whilst the strategy is considered to be robust there is a lack of assurance activities surrounding it to prevent a repeat of the incident since there is no particular reference made to CUI (corrosion under insulation) in the performance standard.

Include a few bullet points clarifying what was learned from the incident

Recommendations/Actions

Remove the remaining lagging on the 6" fuel gas line and inspect closely for any signs of corrosion
Inspect insulation local to the area for indications of CUI, damage, or deterioration.
Review the current inspection strategy for this and similar pipework within the standard inspection model.
Raise awareness of CUI and the consequences of damaged paintwork in the corrosion awareness programme

Include a few bullet points stating any recommendations/actions that will be made/taken as a result of the lessons learned

Contact Details (Optional)

If you would like your submission to be anonymous, leave this section blank