

# Step Change Safety Alert Template



## Alert Title

Gas release as blockage cleared from a pressure transmitter blow down line

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

## Incident Date

15/03/2014

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

## Location Type

Fixed Platform

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

## Specific Equipment Involved

Common pressure transmitter and well annuli blow down pipework

*Give as much detail as possible about the equipment involved*

## Description of What Happened

During plant operation it was noted that a well head pressure transmitter reading was incorrect. To alleviate this situation the pressure transmitter was blown down to relieve the blockage, this subsequently released and resulted in a high pressure although short term gas release as the valves were lined out to the well head pressure.

The pressure released from the wellhead into the pipework caused it to become dislodged from the designated vent point (below the deck plate) to inside the wellbay module. A work party had been present at this location seconds before the incident. However there were no injuries during this event.

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

## Cause of Incident

Immediate cause of the incident was operation of the valves by the operations technician without a suitable risk assessment, however there were a number of root causes identified.

*Build from OIR/12 checklist*

## Incident Consequences

An un-ignited gas release over a very small duration of time, which caused pipework to move which could have hit and injured operational staff.

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

## Lessons Learned

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

## Recommendations/Actions

- Various improvements are to be made to the design and security of the vent pipework as well as the procedural controls for the venting of well annulus pipework.
- Ensure operator tasks (such as the blowdown of instruments) are covered by an appropriate risk assessment.

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

## Contact Details (Optional)

Andrew Miller, Centrica Storage Limited

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