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To: All IPS RMR Pressure Testing Personnel

Date: 9/24/2007

Pressure Testing- Air Compressor Valve Replacement



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Incident: While on Frac Operations the Pressure Tester had just finished up loosening hatch bolts on production equipment with the pneumatic wrench when the incident occurred. The Tester went over to the truck, turned off the air compressor, and began to bleed off condensation when he heard a loud pressure release. The Tester was struck on the brim of his hardhat, knocking it off and sending it approximately ten feet from his person. A brass 2-piece, 1/2" Isolation ball valve, located coming off the compressor tank had parted at the 2 piece connecting point on the valve with approximately 140 psig on it.

The parted half of the valve was still connected to the section of air hose that runs to the lubricator when striking the Tester's hardhat. The employee was not injured by this incident. He promptly reported the incident to the Company Representative on location and to his Immediate Supervisor.

Findings: Ball valve was rated to 600 psig. Upon inspection the ball valve appeared to have been cracked prior to parting because of oxidization pattern at the break. The valve had been removed from the compressor tank and was reinstalled downstream of a tee assembly. The orientation of the valve, coming off the tee assembly, allowed hose and valve half to fly outward from the side of the truck bed. No whip check was in place at the time of the incident.

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Root Cause: Defective or damaged valve within the air system.



Corrective Actions:

- 1. Communicate this incident to all Pressure Testing Personnel by phone and through this Safety Alert and discuss the severity potential during next safety meeting.*
- 2. A thorough inspection is to be performed on all equipment associated with the air compressor system on all pressure testing units.*
- 3. All 2 piece valves used in the compressor air system will be changed out to a 1 piece design as soon as practical. If these are not available as a shelf item locally, please contact Chris Lucas as soon as possible; He has located a source in Riverton.*
- 4. Whip checks will be installed on all air compressor fittings and valves on current test units and on all new construction units in appropriate locations to secure all hoses and fittings as practical.*
- 5. Valves and fittings will be orientated in a manner that will direct pressure and hose ends in a safe direction in the event of a failure, i.e., toward inside of test unit bed, not toward outside of bed where personnel might normally be standing.*

“Remember, Watch out for one another 24-7; We Are Our Brother and Sisters Keeper”!

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