

S a f e t y A l e r t



To: All IPS RMR Personnel

Date: January 27, 2009

Pressure Testing Incident – Methanol Sprayed Into Eyes

Incident: On 24-Jan-09

After pressure testing was completed, the tester was informed by flow testers that they were shut in at the choke manifold and that he could bleed off the pressure back through the test truck. After pressure was bled off, the pressure tester disconnected his hose from the back of the test truck and it was hanging by the whip check. As he was removing the whip check from the hose a flow tester opened up a 2” valve at the choke manifold. This action allowed pressure into the hose which sprayed methanol out of the hose end. The spray hit the back of the truck and deflected methanol into the face and eyes of the pressure tester.

Findings:

- 1. The pressure testing operator was unaware that the flow testers were opening the 2” Lo Torc valve on the manifold. The needle valve on the IPS tie-in was in the open position at the other hose end when the incident occurred.*
- 2. The 2” valve was subsequently shut, but not before methanol was sprayed from the hose end at the back of the IPS test unit.*
- 3. The pressure testing operator was wearing safety glasses, but methanol still sprayed into his eyes. His eyes were immediately flushed with eyewash on location.*

Root Causes:

- 1. The pressure tester violated IPS test procedures by not shutting in the valves at the choke manifold to insure a double block barrier immediately after bleeding off pressure.*
- 2. The pressure tester disconnected the wrong end of the test hose first.*
- 3. The flow testers failed to communicate that they were opening the 2” Lo Torc valve at the choke manifold.*
- 4. The increased complexity of multi-well completions in simultaneous operations may have been a contributing factor in this incident.*

Corrective Actions:

- 1. IPS pressure testing procedures will be followed by all pressure testers in the field, to insure that such vulnerabilities do not occur.*
- 2. This incident will be shared with all other IPS Pressure Testing operations and used in training as an example of incorrect chronology of procedures.*
- 2. The pressure testing hose shall first be disconnected at the choke manifold or tie-in point prior to being disconnected at the test unit.*
- 3. Clear valve ownership must be established prior to operations and communication of opening or closing of valves should be practiced between flow testers and pressure testers; valve position must be verified before any disconnects are made.*
- 4. The pressure tester involved in this incident has been coached and documented progressive disciplinary action has been taken.*

“At IPS, We Take Responsibility for Ourselves and We Look Out for One Another; We Are Our Brother and Sisters Keeper”!