

COS SAFETY SHARE

WHAT WILL WE DO TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING HERE?

INADEQUATE PPE DURING TRANSFER LEADS TO CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

What happened?

While pumping [a corrosion inhibitor] to the holding tank, operator noticed a seep on the threaded section of a camlock fitting. He removed the safety pins to be able to tighten the connection. Once he started tightening the camlock connection, while the pump was still pumping, the connection came apart. The operator was struck in the face and body with chemical.

The safety glasses he was wearing were knocked off his face. The pump was shut down immediately by another operator.

What went wrong?

Communication between the two chemical transfer personnel about changes to the operations (leak) was not conducted. The injured party (IP) decided to tighten connection without consulting the other operator to see if there was pressure on the line. Stop work authority not utilized even though a leak was noticed resulting in changes.

Why did it happen?

Platform personnel have become accustomed to wearing only safety glasses during chemical transfer as they feel that the chemical is contained and they are not exposed to the hazard. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was noted in the Job Safety Analysis (JSA)/ Safety Data Sheet (SDS) but not utilized during the job.

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Preventative maintenance not completed. Strainer on chemical line clogged and there is no known scheduled change out or clean out maintenance.

What areas were identified for improvement?

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Ensure that all personnel understand the hazards of transferring chemicals.
- Continue to emphasize in the JSA and morning safety meetings that during chemical transfer personnel shall review the SDS prior to conducting the job.
- Ensure proper communication methods are established during the JSA.
- Ensure that STOP work is utilized when there is a change in the job scope.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Establish a PM for all chemical strainers or remove it if it is not needed.
- Consider adding the Chemical Representatives on board to assist in chemical transfers and handling or ensure that personnel on location have the proper training.
- Update the management system training to include policy specific PPE for chemical handling.

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