

Learning Alert 25-02 Near Miss – Tapping Failure

Incident Summary

During service order investigation works at Cricklewood Pumping Station, a pressure gauge was installed on an existing tapping on a pump to verify the pressure feeding it. Unfortunately, during installation of the gauge, the tapping failed and began to leak at its base.

Fortunately, no injuries were sustained, and the client was quickly able to isolate the works.

Information obtained during the investigation	Key Lessons Learnt
<p>The corrosion and rusting on the tapping and pump was found to be severe showing the degradation of the asset.</p> <p><i>(Root Cause)</i></p>	<p>Verification of suitability of client assets</p> <p>An assumption was made that this was exterior corrosion only. Had worst case scenario been considered i.e. interior corrosion and rusting, then the works would not have been carried out and would have been passed back to the client for review and action.</p> <p>Additionally, if the existing condition survey had been reviewed it could have provided the necessary information or determined if a further survey was required for the specific task being carried out.</p> <p>Secondly, a site meeting with the client at the 'point of work' prior to the works taking place could have led to the necessary discussions taking place around verification of pump and instrument condition.</p>
<p>A method statement was prepared, reviewed, and approved prior to the work but lacked the necessary detail and was not approved by a Competent Person (e.g. Mechanical AP)</p> <p><i>(Underlying Cause)</i></p>	<p>Enhance Risk Assessment and Method Statements (RAMS)</p> <p>It is essential to ensure that the method statement includes a detailed, step-by-step procedure for the work (aka "dummy guide")—to eliminate any ambiguity in the process.</p> <p>RAMS should be reviewed by Mechanical AP or supervisor or competent person in first instance.</p> <p>Mechanical AP should be appointed in the CPP</p>
<p>No permit in place for the works</p>	<p>Installation of pressure gauge equipment requires mechanical G-permit if double isolation can be implemented or MWHT Director approval to work under single mechanical isolation.</p>
<p>Only one spanner was used during the installation of the pressure gauge.</p> <p><i>(Underlying Cause)</i></p>	<p>Correct Equipment for the task</p> <p>The use of two spanners during installation will increase stability: one to stabilize the tapping and the other to secure the pressure gauge.</p>

SUMMARY

1. If assets are not in a good condition or there is any doubt of their integrity, then seek advice from the client prior to proceeding with works
2. Ensure RAMS are suitable for the task in hand – if unsure get a second opinion
3. Ensure the correct equipment is utilised for the task in hand

REMEMBER - If in doubt, always seek advice from the asset owner

