

COS SAFETY SHARE

WHAT WILL WE DO TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING HERE?

TRAPPED PRESSURE INSIDE VALVE BODY

What happened?

Contract Valve Technician and Employee were performing valve maintenance. Isolation in place for maintenance included Open Bleed Points upstream and downstream of the valve, confirming zero pressure on either side of the valve. Valve was also manually opened and closed to release potential trapped pressure in the valve body and placed in the closed position. After removal of the gear actuator and bolts to the stem were then removed. The Employee stood back, and Valve Technician used a wedge to unseat the stem. Unforeseen trapped pressure in the valve body ejected the stem upward and away from personnel, landing behind the valve in the skid. No personnel were injured, and no other equipment was damaged as a result of the event. Work was stopped, facility supervision and HSE Rep was notified of the incident.

What went wrong?

Improper labeling: A Pressure gauge on the valve was inadvertently mistaken as the internal pressure of the valve. The bleed port was not labeled.

Why did it happen?

Procedure available but not communicated: No specific manufacturer procedure or precautions for Valve Body Pressure or Bleeding Down the involved PBV Trunnion Valve was known by or available to personnel involved in the event or on the facility.

Lack of Training: Contract Company stated this is a known occurrence in a controlled environment and failed to inform their technicians or other companies. Installation, Maintenance and Operating Instructions Guidelines not in the manufacturer's manual.

What areas were identified for improvement?

Confirm Zero Pressure on the Valve Body of all PBV Trunnion Valves utilizing Bleed Ports, Valve Actuation, and if needed placing Bleeds onto Valve Body Seat Grease Fittings to ensure potential trapped pressure confirmed and release is controlled.

Ensure to share information with the field when there is a potential for trapped pressure in controlled environments. Include training in this sharing process.

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