

SAFETY ALERT



FATALITY -

FAILURE OF AIR-HOSE CONNECTION

The incident,

The attached report records the circumstances of a recent fatal injury caused directly as a result of failure to fit 'whip check' to an air hose.

As is reported the immediate, uncontrolled, and unpredictable, lashing of the untethered, and still pressurised, air line struck the IP on the head causing significant injuries from which he subsequently died.

Required actions

All Supervisors are required to advise personnel with whom they are working of the following requirements.

Implementation of these requires to be monitored when making up any air-line connection.

Implementation is the responsibility of the Operator. Monitoring is the responsibility of the Operator's Supervisor.

Additional monitoring should be part of routine Site Audits, Workplace Inspection Reports, and of general safety observation programmes.

The requirements are:-

- ***The condition of both the male and female elements of the connection require to be examined to ensure that the fittings and seals remain suitable for use. Any sign of damage to the seal, to any of the components of the fitting, or damage to the hose connection to the fitting render the connection unfit for service until appropriate repair has been carried out or replacement made.***
- ***All cases of defective connections and the details of any rectification made must be reported***
- ***A check must be made of the location and correct functioning of the air-line supply valve. Any deficiency in the operation of this control valve must be rectified before pressurising the line***
- ***All air-line connections must be provided with a substantial 'whip check' securely attached to both sides of the connection. Connection of the 'whip check' must be made in such a manner that, in the event of disconnection of the coupling, the 'whip check' will not detach from either of the connection components.***

See attached report received from Herrema – Bulletin 06-2003

QUALITY - ENVIRONMENT - SAFETY - HEALTH BULLETIN NO. 06 / 2003

By QESH Department



INCIDENT ON AN OIL RIG

A worker was struck on the head by a compressed air hose which blew off its fitting on a piece of equipment. He received serious head injuries which proved fatal.

The air hose was held by a hose clamp on the fitting with no keeper or restraining chain or sling to prevent the hose from thrashing around.



CAUSE

The primary cause of this accident was the failure to secure the hose and hose clamp by means of keeper or sling and chain respectively.

COMMENTS AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION

Although routine tasks don't require a formal written JSA, the destructive potential of "unrestrained" compressed air hoses should be highlighted to all personnel and be included in toolbox talks and safety training.

Restraining devices such as keepers, chains, slings, proprietary special couplings and whip-checks should be installed on all diameter or high pressure compressed air hoses to prevent them thrashing about in the event of a hose or coupling failure.

Regular inspections of all compressed air powered equipment, including hoses, should be carried out to assess the integrity of the couplings, clamps, keepers and hoses and corrective action taken where necessary.

Anti-whip system

