

Pressurized waterline strikes worker

Safety alert

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Enform

Enform is the health and safety association for Canada's upstream oil and gas industry. We provide leading health and safety training, programs and services, touching the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers each year. We are dedicated to the continuous improvement of safety with a vision of eliminating work-related incidents or injuries in the upstream oil and gas industry.

An industry product

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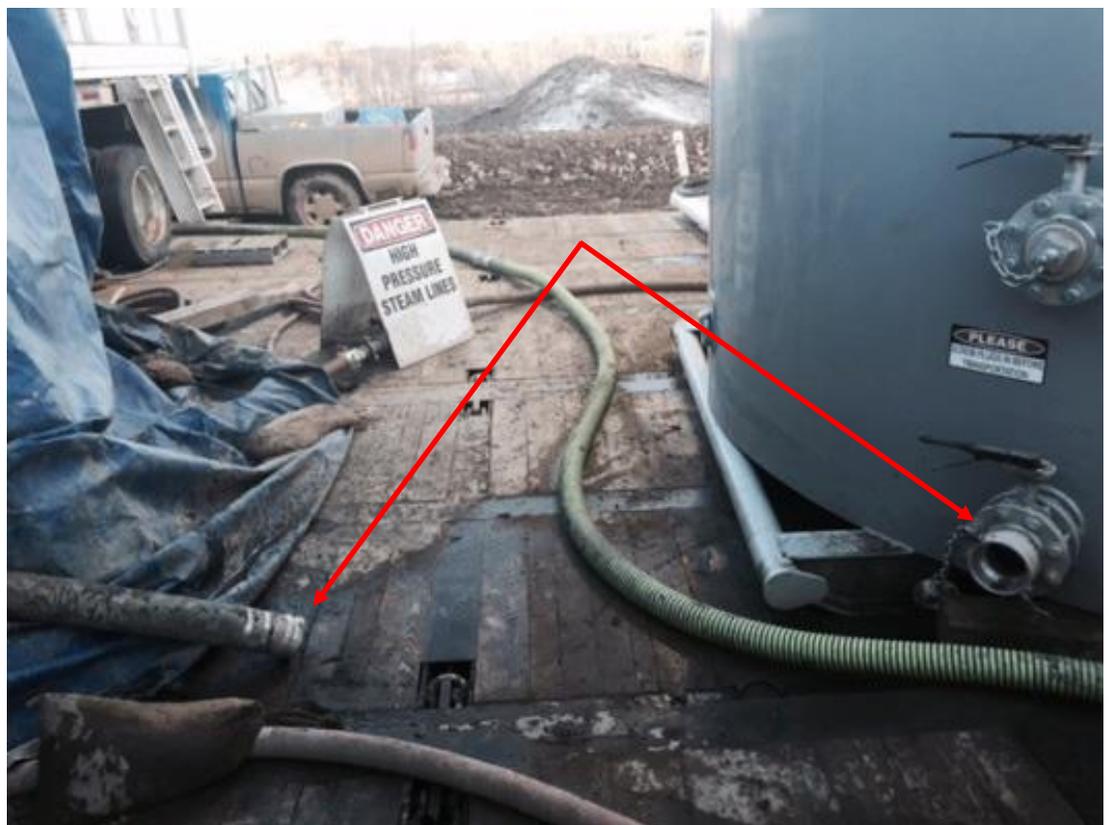
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For more information on this event, please contact: safety@enform.ca

Description of incident:

A waterline was being pressurized to sweep fresh water from the line so that it would not freeze over the weekend or be released onto the matting and create a slip hazard. One worker was pressurizing the waterline while another was at the tank waiting to disconnect the waterline from the tank. The worker at the tank asked if he could make the waterline disconnection over the radio and was instructed by the other worker pressurizing the waterline that he could proceed. The worker made the disconnection and the waterline was still pressurized resulting in the waterline hitting the worker in the leg.



Arrows show location where hose landed and location on tank where hose was attached.

What caused it?

The waterline was pressurized when it was disconnected.

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Contributing factors included:

- Inadequate communication between the worker disconnecting the waterline and the worker who was pressurizing the line.
- The worker did not check that the waterline was depressurized.
- The workers felt rushed at the end of the work week.
- No written work procedures/checklists existed for the task.
- No whip checks were present on the pressurized hoses.

Corrective/preventative actions:

- Eliminate the need to pressurize hoses by draining the water from the hoses to the ground in a controlled manner. The ability to eliminate the need to work with pressure offsets the increased potential for a slip hazard.
- Develop written procedures for the task and conduct field level hazard assessments.
- Install whip checks on hoses that are pressurized.
- Allow adequate time for workers to secure site at end of work week.

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