

Tank Implosion

Safety Alert

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Enform

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Description of Incident:

To drain a condensate tank a vacuum truck was connected to the tank's flow line and suction was applied. Negative pressure immediately built up within the tank, causing it to implode. The tank was destroyed.



Imploded Tank



Plugged Flare Line

What Caused It?

There was no means of equalizing the pressure in the tank when it was placed under negative pressure.

Contributing Factors Included:

- The flare line was plugged with paraffin and there was no way for operators to verify its functionality.
- The tank was not equipped with a functional pressure suction relief valve for negative pressure.
- There was no plan or procedure in place to ensure pressure equalization during tank draining.

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Corrective/Preventative Actions:

- A review of all production tanks was conducted for the presence or absence of pressure suction release valves.
- The requirement for pressure equalization devices was incorporated into engineering design specifications.
- A review of the facility integrity program was conducted and changes made accordingly.

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