

Safety Alert

Number: 19-11

Published: 14/10/2019

Subject: Whip Checks on Bulk Hoses

What Happened / Narrative

Incident 1: In early 2019 during a routine bulk transfer operation in port a bulk hose disconnected from the manifold while under pressure. The hose whipped back violently striking an AB causing him serious injury.

Incident 2: Several months later a different vessel was alongside an installation discharging product. For a totally unrelated reason again the bulk hose disconnected from the manifold however this time the hose was prevented from whipping back by the addition of a webbing strop 'whip check'. No injuries were sustained by any of the crew.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

The 2 incidents reported above happened for totally unrelated reasons. Incident 1 occurred as a result of a failure by various parties to follow and abide by established routine procedures whereas incident 2 occurred as a result of equipment failure, regardless of 'why' the incidents happened the outcome of both incidents resulted in an uncontrolled release of pressure causing the bulk hose to recoil violently.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

Following on from the first incident the client immediately recognised the need to learn the lesson and prevent a similar incident occurring again. As a preventative measure they immediately implemented a blanket requirement for all their vessels undertaking bulk hose operations to install a 'whip check' strop (Soft sling or similar restraining strop which would not damage or choke the hose) between the hose and a strong point on the vessel to remove the potential for another bulk hose to disconnect violently and strike an AB who may be in the immediate area.

By their very nature PSV bulk hose transfers to and from installations will always involve a degree of pressure in the hose and associated lines hence it is vitally important for the safety of all involved in bulk hose operations that they understand and are fully aware of these dangers however it has never been a standard nor a routine procedure to utilise 'whip checks' on PSV manifold / hose connections.

Implementing 'whip checks' on bulk transfer hoses was seen as a simple and effective way of preventing the hose violently 'whipping' away from a deck manifold should any of the connections in the system fail.

The simple compulsory introduction of the whip check proved its worth for this operator within the space of 3 months

Photographs / Supporting Information

The hose end following disconnection. Note the 'whip check' in place.



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