



Operational Alerts inform Signal Mutual Members of serious incidents within the Mutual that resulted in permanent disability, death, or a significant near miss. If you have similar operations, please share this Operational Alert and have a safety discussion with operation managers, supervisors, equipment operators, and all affected employees. It is imperative that management review their operational controls at all levels to mitigate similar hazardous conditions and/or acts.

INCIDENT: GAS LINE LEAK - NEAR MISS

SUMMARY OF RECENT INCIDENT

A Shipyard Competent Person (SCP) prevented a potential explosion and fire aboard a naval vessel due to their quick response to concerns, observations, and the use of their 5-gas analyzer. While a welder and a shipfitter were on their way to the space to start their hot work assignment, an EHS professional was performing their duties as a SCP when the meter began to detect a very high Lower Explosive Limit (LEL). The employee immediately evacuated the space, alerted the Ship's Force, and assisted with investigating and tracing hoses and leads to find where there was a leaking acetylene hose in the space.



The other employees working in the space were also instrumental in avoiding this catastrophe because they waited for the SCP to assess the situation and did not hesitate or resist when instructed to evacuate the space.

CONSIDERATIONS

After a detailed investigation, it was determined that this near-miss could have been prevented because of a series of prior checks in the job setup.

- Identify manifold and gas lines with tags/markings detailing who the owner of the gas cylinders are and the direction of the space routed to. Remember that tags do fall off. Reinspect tags periodically and ensure they are properly secured.
- Mechanics should perform a two-minute drop test of the gas hoses to ensure soundness **before** routing lines/leads through the vessel.
- Perform a pre-shift briefing to detail the scope of work to be performed.
- Complete a job-hazard analysis or job-safety analysis to identify potential hazards and develop solutions to best mitigate risks.



PREVENTION BASICS

Review and discuss with your colleagues all of the steps needed to properly set up a job to avoid fire and explosion hazards. All employees should also be reminded to call for assistance and to alert supervision if there are safety concerns or warnings on a job site. Review with all personnel the actions to take in case of an emergency, where and how to safely evacuate, and what their roles are in response to an emergency.

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