



Incident Investigation Summary

Responsible Manager: Steve Wright

Incident Reference No: 10615-09-NG

LTI Involving failure of Marker Paint Aerosol Paint Canister

This bulletin is issued to disseminate incident investigation findings and recommendations/ learning for consideration and (as appropriate) action by other operating units, contractors, etc.

What Happened?

On Thursday 7th May 2009, an employee working on behalf of the UKD Operations East Coalition prepared to use an aerosol can of Blue Diamond 750 Temporary Linemarker paint. As he shook the can it ruptured along the welded body seam. The rupture caused the can to be ejected from the employees hand and it landed approximately 5 metres away. Paint was sprayed over the employees face and overalls. The employee sustained bruising and swelling to his right hand. Additionally he received treatment for entry of paint into eyes, and 'Chemical Pneumonitis' (Solvents in the paint causing his lungs to be dried out and become swollen).

Why Did This Happen?

An independent technical investigation has concluded that the likely cause of the rupture was a manufacturing fault in the welded seam along the body of the canister. This paint was described as 'Water Based' but failure to immediately remove contaminated clothing and wash paint off the skin prolonged exposure to a solvent present in the paint intensifying the impact to the health of the employee.

Learning Points?

CoSHH assessments must be suitable and sufficient identifying PPE & first aid requirements and must be briefed to staff.
Gloves and glasses to be worn when using or "agitating" (i.e. shaking) an aerosol paint can. It is also recommended that the "agitation" of the can takes place within the works area if possible. When clothing or skin has been heavily contaminated by paint or other harmful substances the affected clothing should be removed and skin cleaned immediately.

Investigating Parties:

Morrison Utility Services with RS Safety Consultant on behalf of Brockwell & Sons and National Grid

Circulation: All National Grid staff, National Grid training centres and as applicable – National Grid Group, Unregulated Businesses, Contractors, Suppliers, etc.

Issue Date: 30 September 2009

Review Date: N/A

For further information regarding this bulletin please contact your Line Manager or the Responsible Manager detailed above.



Ruptured canister



Original Blue Diamond Spray canisters

Circulation: All National Grid staff, National Grid training centres and as applicable – National Grid Group, Unregulated Businesses, Contractors, Suppliers, etc.

Issue Date: 14/10/09

Review Date:

For further information regarding this bulletin please contact your Line Manager or the Responsible Manager detailed above.