

Incident Investigation Summary

Release of Gas from Calibration Gas Bottle

Responsible Manager: Mick Jarvis
Incident Reference No: 1622/10/NG
Person Responsible for National Implementation: Andrew Fishburn

What Happened?

While removing the shrink wrapping on the isolation valve of a test gas bottle containing "zero air" at 200bar (pure air with no contaminants or hydrocarbons), an unregulated release occurred from the bottle through the bottle isolation valve.

The Technician immediately tightened the isolation valve using the hand wheel and the flow of high pressure air was stopped.

Fortunately there were no injuries were sustained in the incident.

The pictures opposite show the cylinder with and without the shrink wrap.



Why Did This Happen?

Although the bottle isolation valve was closed, it was not closed tightly. The action of removing the shrink wrap inadvertently moved the isolation valve a fraction of a turn, resulting in a brief release of contents.

Learning points?

The valves on all transportable gas bottles should be checked for closure tightness before undertaking any task, including transportation on site, removal of any form of seal or temporary closure, etc

Where possible, tasks should be undertaken in a suitably ventilated area, preferably outside, with the valve outlet facing away from personnel. Appropriate PPE should always be worn including protective glasses and gloves.

This Investigation is not intended to replace any COSHH handling, maintenance instructions or specific manufacturer's guidance which should still be adhered to.

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