



The Safety Association for Canada's
Upstream Oil and Gas Industry

Pressurized Spray Bottle Hose Release Worker Sprayed with Chemical Degreaser

SAFETY ALERT

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Enform: Your Partner in Safety

Enform is the upstream oil and gas industry's advocate and leading resource for the continuous improvement of safety performance. Our mission is to help companies achieve their safety goals by providing practices, assessment, training, support, metrics and communication. Our vision is no work-related incidents or injuries in the Canadian upstream oil and gas industry.

An Industry Product

This document was developed by industry for industry. Working collaboratively, Enform works with the submitting organization representative in developing these documents to improve the industry's hazard awareness. Canada's leading oil and gas industry trade associations support the use of shared information to help companies of all sizes improve performance.

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Details

Release Date: April 8, 2011
Incidence Type: Equipment Failure
Country and Region: Alberta, Canada

For more information on this event, please contact: safety@enform.ca

Description of Incident:

- Company A was hired to clean-up a spill caused by a leak in an operating unit.
- The job task involved spraying oil-covered equipment with a chemical degreaser and then using a steam unit and vacuum truck, to remove the degreaser, oil and waste water.
- Two workers from company A were spraying the equipment down with degreaser, when two workers from company B approached them with their own sprayers to offer assistance
- The two workers from company B left the work area but left their sprayer bottles behind, for use, if needed.
- At the end of the shift, company B's two workers returned to retrieve their spray bottles.
- As Company A worker handed a spray bottle to Company B worker, the hose unexpectedly detached from the spray bottle and the chemical product in the sprayer, sprayed up behind the face shield and safety glasses worn by Company A worker.
- The worker used the eye wash station and was sent to the local hospital and permitted to return to full duties.

What Caused It:

Direct causes of the incident were due to

- the spray bottle being left in a pressurized state, and
- the threaded connection on the spray bottle becoming loose.

Indirect causes of the incident were

- not following the spray bottle manufactures instruction manual that stated the spray equipment should never be left pressurized, when not in use
- the threaded connection of the spray bottle did not have a swivel connection, which allowed the connection threads to backed off, during normal use, when the hose was twisted

Corrective Actions:

- When using equipment or tools, the manufactures instructions need to be understood and followed by the workers using them.
- Pressurized equipment must be handled with care and the condition of the equipment and connections inspected to verify integrity.
- Pressurized equipment not in use needs to be depressured if reasonable to do so or other controls implemented.
- All chemical containers need proper WHMIS labeling and workers are to be familiar with the chemical and the location of its MSDS.

By industry, for industry

