

Safety Alert

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ENERGY
SAFETY
CANADA

Hose Rolling Incident - Water Transfer Operations

Fatality - Serious Injury or Fatality (SIF) Event

What Happened?

A worker was fatally injured during water transfer operations. As a layflat hose was being filled during the initial line fill, a section of the line moved from flat ground onto a sloped berm.

The weight of the water pulled that section further down the slope, drawing the rest of the hose into the low ground as it went. The worker was caught and pinned as the hose rolled into the low ground. Despite immediate emergency response, the worker did not survive.

Why Did it Happen?

- The layflat hose moved from flat ground to a slope; once part of the line was on the slope, the water weight pulled that section downhill, drawing the rest of the hose with it.
- The potential risk of ground-surface movement to a slope had not been considered as potential hazard.
- As a result, the flat-to-slope transition on this route had no control applied.

What Has Been Learned?

- Every hose route must now be visibly identified and assessed before charging, specifically to identify any point where the ground could allow a hose to shift or roll.
- Each identified point requires a control: a barrier where people may be working or could be on foot; a stake where only vehicle traffic is present; or a marked exclusion zone kept clear for the duration the line is charged.
- Controlling hose movement is a distinct, required layer of protection in its own right — not covered by any other existing control.
- These requirements are now clearly defined & documented in policy.

Ask Yourself and Your Crew

- Does the planned hose route cross any point where the ground goes from a flat to sloped surface — and has it been visibly identified and assessed?
- If the hose could shift or roll at any point along this route, have we confirmed the right control is in place; barrier, a stake, or an exclusion zone?
- Have we assumed ground movement is covered by another control, when nothing has been clearly put in place to identify it?
- If someone is walking the line as it fills, have we planned and assessed where they will be in relation to the hose?
- Are there potential hazards in our operation that have not been considered due to absence of prior incident or injury?

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Image: Pond and Berm

Resources

- Program | [Line of Fire](#)
- Video Series | [Surface Water Transfer](#)

Submit Your Safety Alert

Help industry by sharing lessons learned from an incident. [Submit your Safety Alert.](#)

Share and Collaborate

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) works collaboratively with industry to share information aimed at helping companies of all sizes improve safe work performance.

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