

# HIPO – San Juan South--Farmington Investigation Summary

**INCIDENT:** GCU 265E  
**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** HIPO  
**BUSINESS UNIT:** NAG – San Juan  
**LOCATION OF INCIDENT:** San Juan-Farmington  
**COUNTRY:** United States  
**Tr@ction No:** 2013-IR-4541850  
**DATE OF INCIDENT:** October 9, 2013

## BRIEF ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT:

A contract gauger was draining water off the bottom of a 400-bbl production tank into an interconnected 95-bbl below-grade tank (BGT) to ready the larger tank for sale. After draining the produced water, the gauger intended to close and tag the drain valve on the bottom of the production tank, but instead fully opened the valve and tagged it as if it was closed. The gauger then left the location at approximately 8:45 a.m. The BGT subsequently overflowed inside the metal secondary containment ring surrounding the production tank and BGT. At 10:40 a.m. a contract compressor mechanic shut the GCU 265E facility in and notified a BP field tech of the incident. The BP field tech made other notifications to the Operations Specialist, Production Team Lead and contract gauger.

Approximately 242-bbls of fluid was recovered from secondary containment via a contract vacuum truck. The contract company was suspended from these specific activities while assessing competency before restart.

This incident classifies as a Level E incident according to GDP 4.4-0001. Impacts to soil in the immediate vicinity of the location and excavation of any impacted soil for disposal are likely. The fluid remained in the secondary containment.

## WHAT WENT WRONG (CRITICAL FACTORS):

**Critical Factor 1** - Gauger failed to close the bottom tank valve following water drain activity.

## SUMMARY OF IMMEDIATE CAUSES:

**4.1 Distracted by other concerns** - Gauger was concerned about preparing tanks for sale and completing daily run activities. (OMS 2.2.2 People and Competence)

**4.6 Routine activity without thought**—Gauging tank operations is a routine tasks that gaugers do multiple times a day. (OMS 4.5.1 Procedures)

## SUMMARY OF SYSTEM CAUSES:

**16.11 Management/supervision/employee leadership - Other - Increased workload associated with recomple activity in GCU.**

The recompletes in GCU increased workload for contract gaugers, due to increases in activities associated with fluid management and landowner interaction.

(OMS 2.5 Working with Contractors)

**13.2 Behaviour - Antecedent not effective**—Gauger did not have an effective visual indication of valve position and the valve could be car sealed in either the open or closed position. (OMS 4.5 Control of Work)

**23.3 Communication between different organization not effective**

Communication from gauger contract company did not effectively communicate the potential issue around workload. (OMS 1.6 Communication and Engagement) Communication between BP

schedulers and OC leadership regarding gauger workload was not effective. (OMS 4.1 Procedures, 4.2 Management of Change)

## INVESTIGATION CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- In regards to tank gauging and fluid management, BP will determine the scope of activity, expectations and which activities are assigned to contract gaugers, and communicate it to the contractor company. BP to consider level loading the contractor's gauging activities based on fluid hauling volumes and high demand landowner requirements.
- Evaluate if the valve locked open position holes can be plugged to prevent it from being locked in the wrong position. Evaluate the risk of reinstalling the valve handles and having them be disturbed by animals or other activity
- BP will ensure that clear communication responsibilities are defined for BP and the contractor company.
- Identify a work process for gaugers and BP schedulers to allow for adequate handling and oversight of fluid management. This process should include a review of work practices and schedules when fluid volumes change due to operating conditions.

## ➤ PHOTOGRAPHS:



## KEY REMINDERS:

- ✓ Stay focused—complacency cause failures in task completion
- ✓ Verify that work is completed prior to leaving location
- ✓ Communication is key—vertically and horizontally
- ✓ Be courageous when you have a need or see a need—continue to request help until issue is resolved

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