



Safety Moment:

***Field Tours as part
of Process Hazard
Analysis***

Field tours

- PHA teams may question the need for conducting a field tour of an older existing facility when most or all the team members have years of experience in the facility.
- During a field tour in preparation for a new baseline HAZOP study for an older facility that had not used HAZOP methodology for their earlier PHAs, the PHA team was walking through the operating area during the field tour and one of the team members noted that there was a small drain valve that was missing a plug.
- That observation led to a closer inspection of other drain valves on equipment and vessels and the discovery of a pattern of missing plugs or caps on drain valves, including several 2" quarter turn ball valves.

Questions

- Are your field reviews done with a "fresh pair of eyes" or a "business as usual" attitude?
- Does your PHA assume that caps, plugs or end blanks are installed on the drains and vents without a field check?
- When conducting field tours, do you take notes on the field tour findings and include them in your PHA documentation, especially any findings that warrant a PHA recommendation?

Questions