

Incident Learning: Fire and smouldering on U7700 HVU

On the 24th of June 2020 at about 09H45 a coil bypass gland leak resulted in a fire:

- Mechanical work was being conducted on 77FV15 (control valve) when 77FCA15 coil bypass gland gave-up and started leaking and resulted in a fire. The Mechanical team present which were also members of the Emergency Response Team raised the alarm and activated the fixed fire water monitors.
- Fire alarm was raised all Emergency Responders responded, the flames were extinguished and leak contained. The pump was switched off and a team was sent-in for isolation in full bunker gear with breathing apparatus along with support team with hand lines for protection.
- The line was isolated and made safe.
- Around 15:30pm while conduction investigations on the scene a **second fire** (insulation) was witnessed by 2 x Electrical department personnel and 2 x Fire Officers who activated the mobile monitors that were on standby and raised the alarm, the fire was extinguished with mobile fire water monitors.
- The insulation was soaked with residue from the previous incident. A team was sent-in to remove the cladding wearing bunker gear with hand lines for protection.

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What are the learnings for implementation?

1. Findings and Learning's:

Positive:

- The incident was quickly reported via two-way radio by mechanical team at HVU
- The Emergency responders reacted quickly and were on scene within minutes
- Mobile monitors were activated to extinguish the fire and disperse the vapor cloud
- Liaison between EMS, Production, SERT and ERT was visible in the field

Concerns:

- Although the initial fire was extinguished very quickly , no proper damping down was followed resulting in a subsequent fire
- All hydrocarbon Fire incidents where pipelines with cladding or vessels with cladding is impacted warrants a proper investigation of the status of the insulation before withdrawing from the incident scene