

# SAFETY ALERT

Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate Safety Alert No. 43 21 September 2009

## Broken leg from coal seam gas sampling incident involving high pressure.

**ATTENTION:** All workers and companies involved in the oil and gas industry.

### What happened?

A gas sampling contractor was struck by a flying fragment from an exploded gas filter. The filter had been exposed to a pressure that exceeded its design specifications (1,600kPa). The filter was being used as part of a gas sampling kit on the high pressure (9,000kPa) product end of a coal seam gas processing plant. One of the contractor technicians undertaking the work sustained a broken leg and related soft tissue damage.

While the exact causes of the incident are still to be determined, this safety alert is a reminder to all operators, staff, their employees and contractors to take particular care when selecting components to be used on high pressure gas systems.



*Pig receiver and sampling point*

### Safety issues identified

- Incorrect selection of filter type for the application.
- Contractors had no formal training in high pressure sampling and had not directly undertaken work before.
- Lack of risk assessment, identification of hazards and use of standard operating procedures when taking gas samples.
- Poor implementation and adherence to existing:
  - permit to work systems
  - company policies and procedures
  - contractor supervision

### Recommendations

- Gas sampling connection and disconnection procedures to include requirements for correct sequence of events and specify the type and rating of components that form the sampling kit.
- Dedicated sampling point to be provided if regular sampling is a standard requirement at the facility.
- Organisations to immediately review their:
  - Hazard registers
  - Risk assessments
  - Standard operating procedures (SOPs)
  - Job safety analyses (JSAs)
  - Contractor training and supervision requirements.



*Damaged Filter*

### For further information, please contact:

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