



HEALTH, SAFETY,  
& ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 06-26

Date: January 29, 2026

## Uncontrolled High Pressure Release

An incident occurred recently involving a Pressure Test Station that had been left pressurized on the supply side with approximately 1,250 psi of nitrogen. After completing a test, the operator bled pressure off the test side, but pressure remained on the supply side of the actuator valve. As the actuator supply pressure bled off, the valve unexpectedly shifted from the closed position to the open position. This sudden valve movement caused a rapid and uncontrolled release of the pressurized nitrogen. The force of the release ejected a test adapter plate that was left on the test station. The ring gasket was projected upward from the manifold, going through the roof of the shop and landing approx. 30 feet away from the building.



With the force of the ejected adapter plate and the sudden, rapid release of high-pressure nitrogen, **GIS HSE** classifies this incident as **SIF** (*Significant Injury or Fatality risk*).

### Hazards Identified:

- Stored Energy from Pressurized Systems
- Valve actuation due to loss of control pressure
- Projectile Hazards from unsecured components left on tabletop

### Potential Consequences:

- Severe Personal Injury or Death
- Structural Damage to equipment and facilities
- Possible asphyxiation hazard from nitrogen flooding the area

### Preventative Actions:

- Never leave test benches pressurized and unattended
- Install and verify physical barriers between the test area and personnel if personnel must be near the test station
- Ensure only competent and Qualified personnel are conducting pressure tests.
- Ensure pressure sources are isolated or disconnected and depressurized when testing is complete
- Verify Zero stored pressure when starting or completing a pressure test

Proper use of the **GIS LIFE Processes** can help to create a **FAIL-SAFE** Work Environment.



SAFETY ALERT