



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 09-26

Date: February 10, 2026

Unexpected Valve Opening



Summary

A worker was performing needle-gun work on a glycol reboiler nozzle and saddle when vibration from the activity caused a belly drain valve to inadvertently open. The valve did not have a plug installed, allowing steam and glycol to discharge to atmosphere. The worker evacuated the area immediately. Operations was notified, and the facility was shut in as a precaution. Operations later closed the valve, stopping the release.

Key Hazards

- Unexpected release of hot steam and glycol
- Burn and exposure risk
- Unsecured or unplugged drain valves
- Vibration affecting nearby equipment

Lessons Learned

- Vibration-intensive work can cause valves to move or open
- All drain valves must be verified closed, secured, and plugged before starting work
- Pre-job checks are critical when working near process equipment

Required Actions

- Inspect nearby valves and drains before power tooling or similar work
- Confirm plugs are installed where required
- Coordinate work with Operations prior to starting
- Evacuate and notify Operations immediately if an unintended release occurs

Proper use of the GIS LIFE Processes helps to create a Fail-Safe work environment.

SAFETY ALERT

