



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 10-26

Date: February 17, 2026

Trapped Pressure

An incident occurred recently involving a high-pressure skid (+/- 1200 lbs.) on a shoreside facility. The skid had been properly isolated and locked out to check a Meter Run joint, and the bleed valve was opened from the tubing transmitters. RTU was checked, and pressure showed zero. Worker started unbolting the flange starting from the bottom and working his way up. Worker was able to take two top bolts out, facing him. He was able to turn the meter joint slightly and then heard pressure escaping. He turned his head slightly to the left, and the pressure gave, spraying oil and coating the worker and nearby equipment. The pressure release lasted approx. 10 seconds.



While no injury or serious damage occurred in this incident, the potential is very significant. The chance that a spark could have been generated and caused a fire or explosion adds more serious consequences to this.

Hazards Identified:

- Stored Energy from Pressurized Systems
- Improper Flange breaking procedure.
- Projectile Hazards from unsecured components left nearby.

Potential Consequences:

- Severe Personal Injury or Death
- Structural Damage to equipment and facilities
- Possible fire or explosion

Preventative Actions:

- Always verify zero pressure before breaking a flange.
- Install and verify physical barriers between the flange and personnel when possible
- Ensure only Competent and Qualified personnel are breaking flanges.
- Ensure that the proper GIS Flange Breaking Procedure is followed (Breaking the flange on the side facing away from you).
- Follow all GIS Safety Procedures when performing Line Breaking Operations.

GIS Policy/Procedure **LLCP-089 Line Breaking and Cutting** states:

“When loosening the bolts of flanges or covers, loosen those bolts which are farthest from the worker first.”

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

SAFETY ALERT

