HEALTH, SAFETY, & ENVIRONMENTAL

SAFETY ALERT

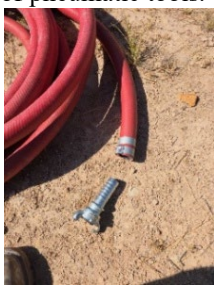
Alert #: SA 46-26 **Date: July 23, 2026**

Air Hose Coupling Failure Creates Potential Line-Of-Fire Hazard

Recently crew members were preparing to clean the inside of a water tank for inspection at a customer location in Midland, Texas. While setting up operations, a **new 1" air hose assembly experienced a coupling failure** when the line was pressurized, causing the hose to separate from the fitting. The crew immediately stopped work, shut the equipment down, removed the hose from service, and reported the failure to supervision. No injuries or property damage occurred. Although no injuries occurred, this event had the potential to cause serious struck-by injuries from a whipping hose or flying fitting, as well as equipment damage and loss of control of pneumatic tools.

What Went Right:

- A whip check was installed prior to pressurizing the hose, helping to prevent uncontrolled hose movement when the coupling failed.
- Work was stopped immediately, and equipment was taken out of service.
- The hose was reported, documented, and preserved for evaluation.
- The event was documented and communicated through the LIFE reporting process.



Lessons Learned:

New doesn't always mean safe! Compressed air systems contain stored energy that can be released suddenly when hoses, fittings, or other components fail. Even newly manufactured equipment should be treated as a **potential line-of-fire hazard** during pressurization.

- New equipment is not always defect-free.
- Hose assemblies must be inspected before use regardless of age or condition.
- Personnel must remain clear of the line-of-fire when pressurizing hoses and pneumatic systems.
- Safety restraints (whip checks) should be installed where applicable and required.
- Defective equipment must be removed from service immediately and reported.

Required Actions:

All crews using compressed air systems must:

1. **Inspect equipment, hoses, fittings, clamps, and couplings before each use.**
2. **Verify fittings are properly secured and compatible with the hose assembly.**
3. **Ensure whip checks or other approved restraint devices are installed where required.**
4. **Position personnel out of the line-of-fire when pressurizing hoses.**
5. **Stop work immediately if damage, wear, loose fittings, or abnormal conditions are identified.**
6. **Report defective equipment through the appropriate reporting process so it can be removed from service and evaluated.**

LIFE Principle Applied: LOOK & INTERVENE

This event highlights the importance of **Looking for hazards before work begins** and **intervening when something doesn't seem right.**

Key Takeaway:

A failed hose coupling can quickly become a high-energy, line-of-fire event. Before introducing pressure into any system, verify fittings are secure, restraints are installed, and personnel are positioned clear of the potential hazard zone. **Never assume equipment is safe just because it's new.**

Don't wait for a failure to expose a hazard. If something doesn't look right, stop the job, speak up, and remove the equipment from service before an incident occurs.

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

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