



HEALTH, SAFETY,
& ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 58-26

Date: September 23, 2026

Near Miss: Blast Hose Separation During Troubleshooting

On September 22, 2026, a near miss occurred during AmphiBlast operations at an offshore location. Personnel were troubleshooting a restriction in the blast hose when a hose separated at the coupling, causing it to whip briefly before the pressure was bled down. No personnel were injured, and no property was damaged. Work was stopped, supervision was notified, the hose assembly was repaired, and operations resumed without further incident.

Incident Factors

During normal AmphiBlast operations, a restriction developed in the blast hose during wet abrasive media flow. Personnel utilized an accepted industry method to clear the obstruction by choking the system, alternately opening and closing the valve at the volume tank to dislodge the restriction. During this process, the hose coupling lost its mechanical grip “bite” on the hose, allowing the hose to separate from the coupling and slip free from the whip check. The separation occurred approximately 100’ downstream from the blast unit. Although blast pot pressure is approximately 125 psi, the pressure at the point of failure was likely lower due to pressure losses along the length of the hose and the open-ended nature of the system. Post-incident inspection found no visible signs of hose degradation. The apparent failure mechanism was repeated pressure surges generated while clearing the obstruction, which increased loading on the coupling and contributed to a loss of fastener retention at the hose connection.



Potential Consequences

Although no injury occurred, the event had the potential to result in:

- Serious struck-by injuries from a whipping blast hose
- Eye and face injuries from released abrasive media
- Lacerations, contusions, or other physical injuries
- Equipment damage
- A Serious Injury or Fatality (SIF) had personnel been positioned within the hose whip zone

Lessons Learned

This incident demonstrates that hose assembly failures can occur even when equipment appears to be in good condition, operating pressures remain within design limits, and accepted work practices are being followed. Because blast hoses are subjected to vibration, abrasive flow, and pressure fluctuations, coupling retention can be compromised without obvious warning signs. While whip checks are an essential safeguard, **additional restraint methods such as securing hoses to fixed supports near coupling locations** can help reduce hose movement and line-of-fire exposures if a separation occurs.

Expectations

All personnel operating pressurized hose systems are expected to:

- Inspect hose-to-coupling connections prior to use and after maintenance activities.
- Verify couplings are properly matched, installed and maintained.
- Monitor hose assemblies for movement, slippage or damage and replace worn components.
- Inspect and maintain whip checks and hose restraint devices.
- Secure hoses to fixed supports at coupling locations whenever practical.
- Maintain exclusion zones to minimize personnel exposure to hose whip hazards.
- Stop work immediately if abnormal equipment behavior is observed.

Key Takeaway

Blast hose coupling failures can occur without visible signs of deterioration and even when operating within normal pressure limits. Proper inspection, secure coupling installation, effective hose restraints, tiebacks at coupling locations, and maintaining clear line-of-fire exclusion zones are critical defenses against hose whip incidents.

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

SAFETY ALERT

