

Safety Flash

Near Miss Incident

Date of Incident: 6/7/2019

The Incident

After receiving permits to perform hot work operations around a high pressure vessel, GEM associates performed one last pre-start inspection of the area. During this inspection, the GEM crew noticed a valve in the closed position, which raised a red flag with the crew. Plant Operations was informed of the crew's concern, and upon further inspection, the vessel was found to be 98 percent full of a highly combustable and flammable material.

The Causes

- During the permit inspection, the closed valve was missed by the issuing authority.
- The highly combustable and flammable product was still in the vessel when the permit was issued.
- The vessel was still energized.

Prevent It

- GEM associates followed proper lockout/tagout procedures and caught this mistake before work progressed.
- GEM associates noted the hazard and followed the "Take 2 For Safety" policy, promptly stopping the job from progressing and taking the appropriate steps needed to perform the job safely.

Action Plan

- Continue using the safety tools and protocols that every GEM associate has the right to use.
- A safety stand down was held with associates on site to discuss this issue and encourage them to speak up when they notice something isn't right.
- Continue to verify a safe work area before beginning work.

Keep Improving

Your health and safety are the most important part of every project. We need *your* help to eliminate unsafe behaviors and conditions. If you see a safer and better way to do a task, see your supervisor, or contact GEM Safety: Bill Cornett – 419-720-2728. To get personal protection equipment from the warehouse, call 419-720-2688.