

High Potential Incident Alert - 188

September 2015

Activation of main IG PV breakers

The water seal in the PV breaker of the cargo tanks' inert gas system was lost.

As a consequence, the inert gas header and the vapour space of the oil cargo tanks vented to atmosphere. Gas was detected and a shutdown and muster were initiated.

The venting continued until the water seal was reinstated three hours later. There were no injuries.

The event is estimated to be a Tier 2 release based on the estimated oil cargo tank vapour space composition and the drive pressure for the first hour of the release.



CRITICAL FACTORS

Competency

- Consistency in understanding across shifts of how the PV breaker instrumentation was intended to operate.

Procedures and Safe Work Practices

- Management of change of PV breaker instrumentation.
- Importance of clear documentation of how to verify the water level in the PV breaker.

KEY LESSONS

Experience is no substitute for documenting how a piece of safety-critical equipment is to be maintained and operated.