

Worker Sprayed with Frac Oil Chemical

Description of Incident:

On September 6, 2013 during the routine maintenance of frac equipment, a vacuum truck operator was sucking out the chemical totes at the blender. During this task one of the hoses became plugged. The vacuum truck operator took the suction hose with a male end fitting and attempted to hold it together with his hands to the other male end of the plugged hose. When the plugged obstruction (gelled frac oil) let go, the hoses jumped and came apart and he was sprayed in his face and upper body with the gelled frac oil substance. The driver was not wearing chemical goggles when the incident occurred.

The chemicals were X-link, gel activator and breaker. The vacuum truck driver was taken immediately to the shower unit on location, showered down and was rushed to the Grande Prairie hospital by the medical staff on location. The worker was later released from the hospital with minor skin and eye irritation.

Corrective/Preventive Actions:

Investigation provided the following recommendations:

1. Communicate this safety alert to all relevant workers and personnel (e.g. vacuum truck operators).
2. Safe work procedures to be reviewed and applied as required.
3. Personal protective equipment to be identified during the pre-job hazard assessment and donned as required.

	<p>Hoses with two male ends being held together by hand during incident</p> <p>Male Hose Ends</p>
	<p>Proper adapter to be used to connect two male hoses</p>

Disclaimer:

This Safety Alert is designed to prevent similar incidents by communicating the information at the earliest possible opportunity. Accordingly, the information may change over time. It may be necessary to obtain updates from the source before relying upon the accuracy of the information contained herein. This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers and supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices.