



SAFETY ALERT - #07-2006
CORRODED BULL PLUG CAUSES NEAR MISS
RELEASE DATE: JANUARY 11, 2006

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Function: Production | Incident Date: November 8, 2005 |
| Location: Onshore | Location Detail: Gas plant |
| Incident Type: Near miss | Country and Region: Canada, Central Alberta |

Note: On September 20, 2005, the Petroleum Industry Training Service (PITS) and the Canadian Petroleum Safety Council (CPSC) combined their operations to become *Enform*.

Description of Incident:

While conducting rounds at his facility, the Plant Operator noticed a bull plug that looked suspicious and was possibly leaking. The operator inspected the bull plug, placed a pail under the bull plug, barricaded the area off in case the plug blew out, and notified the Operations Supervisor. The operator **did not tighten the bull plug**.

The bull plug was located on the bottom of an inlet separator and could not be isolated from the vessel which operates at 3 percent H₂S and 4,400 kpa (638 psi). Upon further inspection, the bull plug had severely corroded and was only being held in place by one thread. The vessel had been inspected during the previous shutdown, but the bull plug had not been removed for the inspection.

Preventative Measures:

1. Thoroughly inspect leaking bull plugs before attempting to stop a leak by tightening them.
2. Remove and inspect all vessel bull plugs during shutdowns.

Photo:



Contacts:

Gay-Lynn Hettinger
Safety & Health Lead
Imperial Oil Resources
Phone: (403) 335-7522
Email: gay-lynn.hettinger@exxonmobil.com

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.