

Drain Plug Under Pressure

Description of Incident (January 23, 2025)

A crew member was impacted by a 2-inch stainless steel drain plug, that was released under pressure, while attempting to remove it from the potable water bunkering hose. The bunkering hose was not believed to be pressure containing as it was an open-ended hose, and the air supply to the hose was confirmed to be off. The injured person was assessed by the platform nurse and was then medevac'd onshore for further assessment and treatment.

What Went Wrong

There was a kink in the hose at the lifting point which essentially created a closed system. The quarter turn valve handle was worn so that the valve was not closed in the 90-degree position. The plant air supply hose being connected to the bunkering manifold created a potential pathway for air to enter the hose and allow for some pressure build. The pressure gauge on the bunkering manifold was upstream of a check valve and did allow for pressure in the hose to be observed. The potable water bunkering manifold does not have a bleed port to allow for confirmation of zero energy in the bunkering hose.

Causal factors were identified as:

- The plant air supply line was left connected to the potable water manifold
- Potential hazard of pressure build in the bunkering hose was not recognized (open system)

Corrective Actions & Recommendations

The following corrective actions were identified and are being implemented:

- Review and update bunkering process, system and procedures completed to confirm safe operation
- Handle on quarter turn valve on plant air supply manifold replaced.
- Zero energy verification point / bleed point installed on pot water bunkering manifold.
- Procedure updated to include:
 - The removal of the drain plug and second blow back task.
 - Information on this incident (risk link)

The operator also recommends that readers consider the following learning questions for error prone situations:

- Have you identified all life saving rules and actions and potential hazards or only the obvious ones?
- Are you triggered by changes, differences or abnormal conditions even for slight variations? Do you STOP work and conduct a last minute risk assessment when a Trigger occurs?

Applicable Lifesaving Rule

IOPG's [Line of Fire](#) lifesaving rule is applicable to this incident.

Posted on September 5, 2025.

[Read more](#) Atlantic Canada Offshore Safety Alerts.

Related Images



Fig. 1. Potable Water Hose Showing the Kink

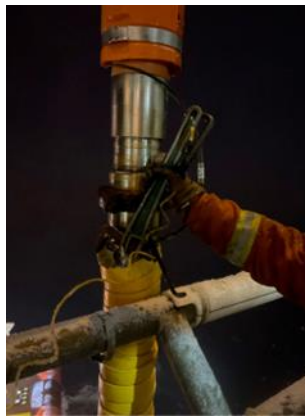


Fig. 2. Bunkering Hose at Plug Location