

# HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT

Important safety information to share with our colleagues and contract partners

## Releasing Stored Pressure From A Pressurised System

### Why are we sending this alert out?

We have had a high potential incident when breaking into a pump where the stored energy had not been released causing the pump body and impeller to become a projectile.

### What happened?

The pump had been isolated for work, and a drain down valve had been opened to release the stored pressure inside.

When the technician began to open the pump, the pressurised sludge from inside the pump had not been drained, causing the pump body and impeller to be released as a projectile. Thankfully, nobody was injured and the only damage caused was to a steel traffic barrier as the technician was following good working practices of working to the side of the flange he was unbolting



### How do we prevent it happening again?

In this instance correct isolations, a permit to work and a risk assessment had been carried out, however as general reminder when working on pressurised systems:

- Remember to ensure all energy sources, including any stored energy is released prior to breaking into a pressured system.
- Remember to carry out a high hazard risk assessment when carrying out this type of work.
- Always follow good working practices by ensuring you never work behind anywhere, where stored energy could be released to.

A further alert will be released once the incident has been investigated to identify the learnings.