

Date Mon, 29 Nov 1999 114041 -0700

From Meredith Brown [racer@lanl.gov](mailto:racer@lanl.gov)

Subject: Blue Alert- Failed Compressed Air Regulator

**Title: Blue Alert- Failed Compressed Air Regulator**

Identifier 1999-SRS-WSRC-0002 Date 11/29/99

**Lesson Learned Statement-** Work controls were not implemented to eliminate the potentials for personal injury when the scope of work changed.

**Discussion of Activities-** On 11/15/99, a SRS employee was injured when a compressed air regulator failed suddenly, propelling pieces of the regulator against the employee's abdomen causing minor injuries. Subsequent investigation revealed that a new process line had been fabricated to replace a cracked line running between an automatic valve and a filter press. Before the line could be repaired, it had to be drained. Due to an electrical outage in the facility, the automatic valve was closed and could not be opened to drain the cracked line. An air cylinder designed to be used with a portable safety shower was, instead, used as a temporary source of energy in an attempt to open the valve. A hose was connected from the cylinder to a regulator, and another hose was run from the regulator to the valve. As the regulator was adjusted to increase the amount of pressure needed to open the valve, the regulator failed, propelling pieces of it into the employee's abdomen. It was later determined that the regulator was significantly undersized for the air cylinder, which resulted in failure.

**Recommended Actions-** It is recommended that other sites in the complex stress to employees that they ensure that regulators are compatible with the energy source before energizing the system. They should be reminded to be aware of changes in the work scope that may affect their safety. If the scope of work changes or new hazards have been identified, work should be stopped until controls can be implemented to eliminate the potentials for personal injury.

Originator Westinghouse Savannah River Company

Contact John H. Gilmore, 803-952-9901, [john.gilmore@srs.gov](mailto:john.gilmore@srs.gov)

Authorized Derivative Classifier Karen Taylor

Reviewing Official H. S. Etheridge

Priority Descriptor Blue

DOE Functional Category Training & Qualification

User-Defined Functional Category Training & Qualification

Keywords Compressed Air Regulator, Air Cylinder, Temporary Source of Energy,

Training & Qualification References