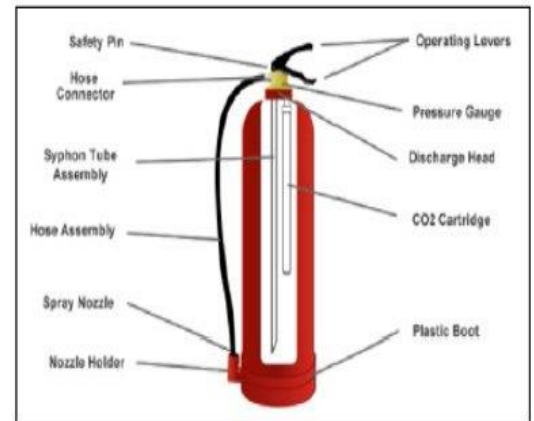




LESSONS LEARNED



Ruptured Fire Extinguisher Results in Fatality



LESSONS NO.

LL_HSE_395

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DATE

17 June, 2021

SOURCE

Vantage Drilling Safety
Moment June 21

What Happened?

A person discharged a corroded, handheld, cartridge-type, dry chemical powder fire extinguisher which had been condemned during an annual third party inspection.

When the internal CO2 cylinder was activated (225psi/17 bar) to energize the fire extinguisher, the unit ruptured at the corroded base, exploded and struck the IP causing critical head injuries.

Contributing Factors

The base of the extinguisher had corroded.

Although condemned during a third party inspection and moved to an isolated storage area, a decision was made to discharge the extinguisher to 'make it safe' before transporting it to shore.

Those discharging the extinguisher did not appreciate the danger involved.

Lessons Learned

Please see the following points on how to prevent this type of incident.

Minimize Corrosion

- Inspect fire extinguishers exposed to the weather for corrosion monthly.
- Mount fire extinguishers off the deck/floor in manufacturer approved mounting devices.

Third Party Inspections and Condemnations

- Fire extinguisher disposal shall only be conducted by qualified third party personnel as per the manufacturer's specifications (or regulatory requirements).
- Third party fire equipment inspection companies shall manage condemned fire extinguishers from time of identification until they are removed from the rig.
- Condemned fire extinguishers shall never be discharged by rig personnel.

Pre Job Planning

- Conduct education sessions on pre-job planning processes to ensure all hazards and risks are discussed for both routine and non-routine tasks prior to work commencing.