

Face and arm injury when disconnecting hose under pressure

And why we require drivers to wear safety glasses



Non Ineos accident –
shared by haulier

Logistics SHE Alerts

What

After the discharge of Polyethylene granules into a silo, the driver wanted to disconnect the unloading hose from the silo truck. The driver assumed that the hose was no longer under pressure which was not the case. When the hose was released, PE granules under high pressure were ejected onto the face and fore arms of the driver. He suffered severe injuries of both his face and his arms. (note: the driver was wearing a jacket with long sleeves !) The driver was lucky that he was wearing his safety glasses, otherwise he would have lost his eyes.

Why

When the bulk silo was empty, the driver started to empty the hose and lines by using the pressure inside the silo truck. Suddenly the sound of the air flow stopped and the driver assumed that the silo and the hoses were no longer under pressure. However the inlet line of the storage silo was fitted with a shut off valve that closes automatically when the air flow is too high, this is in order to prevent overpressure inside the storage silo. This valve suddenly closed and the line system, including the silo truck were therefore still under pressure when the driver wanted to disconnect the hose. The driver did not check the pressure of the line system.

Lessons

- Before disconnecting the unloading hose, the driver must first close the outlet valve of the silo truck and then check the pressure gauge on the air manifold on the truck
- Customers must inform the drivers about the presence of an automatic shut off valve in the inlet line.
- **This show the importance of wearing safety glasses at all times during unloading activities !**
- We thank the haulier and the driver for sharing this with us.

