

Birba H₂S Incident Lateral Learnings

Incident (12th Jan, 2007):

Two technicians were setting up to replace a tank blow-off hatch. One of them “released the pressure” by manually lifting the hatch. The resultant release of gas and H₂S alerted them, causing them to flee down the exit stairs. One subsequently collapsed and was caught by the other. No permanent injuries.

Root Causes:

- Ignorance of technicians to the dangers
- Complaisance of supervisor, operators and other maintenance personnel

Lateral Learnings:

- PTW system, if correctly followed, would have prevented such an incident.
- Strict compliance to procedures protects lives, assets and reputations; procedures are there for good reason.



The blow-off hatch



How the Operator found the victims

