

Cooley, James

From: Mosby, Daryl <DMosby@sterigenics.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2019 4:07 PM
To: Cooley, James
Subject: Referenced Email
Attachments: SAtlanta_AD19082812510.pdf

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James - Attached is the email requested.

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Sabb, Elbert

From: Sabb, Elbert
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 4:58 PM
To:

Cc: Mosby, Daryl (DMosby@sterigenics.com)
Subject: Recent Area Evacuation

Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

I wanted to inform each of you that we experienced an Area Evacuation at approximately 3:14am this morning. An investigation took place at this time and it was found that a drum that was recently removed from CH #10 was leaking from the Gas Valve. There was a Drum Change that occurred on this chamber about an hour earlier. During this Drum Change, the Drum Gas Valve was not closed completely (As Required) and the plugs were not installed in the Drum Valves after the drum was removed from the chamber (As Required). Once the Drum Gas Valve was properly closed and the plug was inserted as required, this situation was corrected and there was no longer a leak. The levels that were seen in the facility at the time dissipated as well.

When conducting a drum change, we must always remember that the drum being removed from the scale in most cases will still have some gas remaining. You must treat this drum the same as you would treat a newly received drum coming into the facility...making sure it is free of leaks. There has been a tremendous amount of dialogue concerning this very issue in the past few months and a Lessons Learn was published describing a similar issue at another facility (Posted In The Control Room). Drum Handling / Drum Changing is one of the most critical task the an Operator performs. Following the procedure when performing this task or any task you perform is a requirement...not an option. For this scenario, the procedure **(G-WI-EO-OPS-013)** clearly states that once the drum has been disconnected from the flex-lines, you must:

- e. **Close N₂ blanket drum valve firmly.** Do not use any tools - excessive force can damage the valve.
- f. Disconnect N₂ Blanket Flex-line and carefully hang up in gassing station.
- g. Use any remaining purge time to prepare replacement drum.
- h. Ensure the full purge time has passed and there is no sound of gas flow, then close the EO Flex-line Manual Valve.
CAUTION: Adequate time is needed to ensure that the Nitrogen pushes all liquid EO out of the flex line and into the drum.
- i. **Close EO liquid drum valve firmly.** Do not use any tools excessive force can damage the valve.
- j. Disconnect EO flex-line and carefully hang up in gassing station.
- k. **Place plugs in both drum valves and tighten with spark-proof tool.**

This event could have been prevented if these clearly defined instructions were followed. Please be reminded that when performing a Gas Drum Change there is never a rush. If it takes longer than it would to complete the drum change routinely this is OK. We prefer you take your time to do it correctly instead of cutting corners and creating an unsafe condition.

We will discuss this situation more in the next plant meeting. Shift Supervisors – For now please continue to remind everyone on your shift the importance of completing a drum change to standard. Please review this email with your shift as well.

Thanks,

[Elbert Sabb](#)

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