

Borates HSEQ Initial Alert

Incident Number: 1000505167



Incident: PSM event where evaporator expansion joint failed spilling hot liquor
Preliminary Classification: Potential Fatal Incident (PFI)

Critical Control: Prevent critical failure of piping, hoses & equipment under pressure

Operation / Project: Boron (RTB)

Location: MDDK-Evaporator

Date: 10/11/2018

Time: 12:25 am

Contact: Nolan Drake, Nolan.drake@riotinto.com

What happened:

The evaporator was in start-up. Instrumental electrician (I.E.) technicians were called to check the speed sensors of the fan motor. While working in the area, they noticed that liquor and steam began leaking. Seeing the leakage, the maintenance supervisor evacuated employees from the area. At 12:25 am, the expansion joint failed and 193 degree liquor shot out in all directions. The employees were about 100 feet from the expansion joint when it failed. Nobody was injured.

Preliminary findings:

- Environment: none
- Equipment: It is believed liquor was accumulating in the vapor line, resulting in the expansion joint failure.
- People: Two I.E. technicians and two supervisors were approximately 100 feet away from the expansion joint when it failed and hot liquor was ejected.

Initial learnings:

- Environment: none
- Equipment: Technical investigation will be conducted to understand root cause.
- People: Employees observed changing conditions and evacuated the area.



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