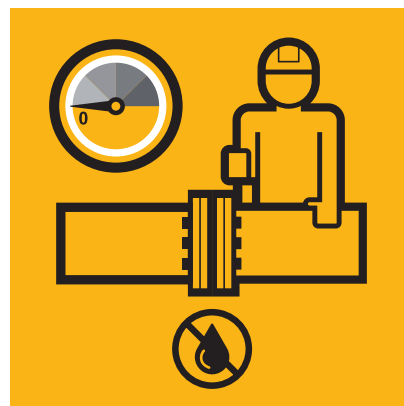


WE MAINTAIN SAFE ISOLATION



It is important for every activity that requires breaking containment, that an appropriate isolation plan for the specific activity is used and followed. Some process safety incidents have occurred when an isolation plan for a similar (but not identical) task has been used but did not address all the relevant hazards. Isolation plans should therefore match the particular task and be based on up-to-date process safety information (e.g., P&IDs).

It is good practice to discuss isolation tasks and to raise concerns before the task begins. This enables concerns to be raised and resolved safely.

If for some reason the isolations cannot be executed as planned, you should stop work and seek advice from your supervisor on how to proceed safely.

Concerns raised might include isolations that do not achieve positive isolation, quantities of drained materials that are more or less than expected, or indications of the presence of significant residual pressure or material.

After breaking containment, it is important to remain vigilant to potential signs that might indicate that the effectiveness of the isolations, venting or draining arrangements have changed. This could include difficulties with proceeding with a task (e.g., due to trapped pressure or vacuum), more liquids arising, new smells, etc.

- Always make sure that you are either in sight of, or in control of the isolations you are using for your job. Before putting equipment back into service, it is important to verify that the system is mechanically complete using your local practices.
- Be vigilant about potential false pressure indications (e.g., line plugs, hydrates, etc.).
- Before introducing hydrocarbons, it is good practice to perform a gross leak test where possible.

Tips for Managers:

Monitor isolation practice at your location to verify that your local practice is safe and effective. Implement improvement where issues are identified.

Respond and follow up if isolation concerns are raised.

Regularly check that those performing isolations are effectively trained and supported.

More information on good practice related to this PSF can be found either in your local management system/procedures or in the following industry guidance:

Additional guidance:

UK Health and Safety Executive – [The safe isolation of plant and equipment](#)