



NLI: Breaker Handle Failure

SB-2010-26

Event Description:

NLI: Breaker handle failed and did not isolate power even though LOTO was performed



Who / What / Why / How:

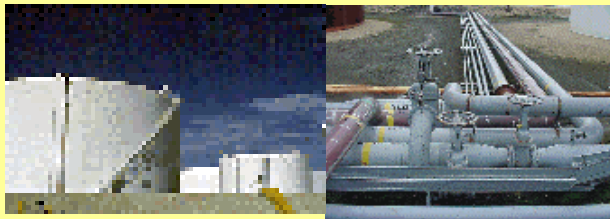
In June 2010, repairs were planned for a hazardous location motor starter. The refinery operator and contract electrician jointly locked out the breaker handle in the “OFF” position. As part of an SPSA, and as per the procedure, the electrician tested for voltage and found 480v present after the LOTO. The mechanical linkage from the breaker handle to the starter had failed, and thus did not isolate the power even though the handle was locked out in the correct position.

Recommendations:

- Always, always perform an SPSA! It could save your life.
- Always use the LOCK OUT, TAG OUT & TRY method while performing energy isolation.
- Ensure Critical Procedures (i.e. LOTO) are reviewed prior to every job, and that they are strictly followed without deviation.



“Nobody Gets Hurt !”




ASSESS the risk!

ANALYZE how to reduce the risk!

ACT to ensure safe operations!