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To Pressure Equipment Owners and Operators

ALERT

Worker Killed at Pressure Plant

Workers at a gas processing facility were re-pressurizing a system following some modifications to the facility when the pressure unexpectedly rose to the point that the safety relief valve lifted to relieve the pressure from the system. When the valve lifted to relieve the excess pressure, the force of the discharged fluid apparently caused a section of the discharge pipe to dislocate suddenly and strike one of the workers. Tragically, the worker later died in hospital.

At this early stage of the investigation, it is not known precisely why the discharge pipe dislocated. Safety relief valve discharge piping must be adequately designed and installed to facilitate safe discharge from the safety relief valve(s) to which it is connected. Forces resulting from the release of the pressurized fluid need to be taken into consideration. Designers, installers, inspectors and plant operators are urged to ensure that the design and installation of safety relief valve discharge piping are adequate.

Additional information about relief valve installations was published by ABSA in the September 2001 edition of *the Pressure News* .
<http://www.absa.ca/newsletter/v06-2001/v6-iss3.pdf>

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