

Information Bulletin No. IB17-019

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ALERT

**CSB Releases Final Report into
2016 Refinery Fire that Seriously Injured Four Workers**

This Information Bulletin is intended to increase awareness of key lessons learned from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigation.

“September 18, 2017, Washington, D.C. - Today, at a public business meeting in Washington, DC, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board released a safety bulletin on the November 22, 2016 fire that severely burned four workers at the ExxonMobil refinery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

The fire occurred during maintenance activities when operators inadvertently removed bolts that secured a piece of pressure-containing equipment to a plug valve. When the operators attempted to open the plug valve, the valve came apart and released flammable hydrocarbons, which formed a vapor cloud that quickly ignited.”

The report is accessible on the Chemical Safety Board website:

http://www.csb.gov/assets/1/19/ExxonMobil_Baton_Rouge_Safety_Bulletin_-_Final_-_2017-09-01.pdf

Key lessons are summarized:

“Companies should:

- *Evaluate human factors associated with equipment design and apply the hierarchy of controls to mitigate identified hazards.*
- *Establish detailed and accurate written procedures and provide training to ensure workers can perform all anticipated job tasks safely. “*

Owners and operators of pressure equipment are encouraged to review this report as a case study from which learnings may be taken to help improve safety.

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Mike Poehlmann, P.L. (Eng.)
Administrator, Province of Alberta Pressure Equipment Safety
Chief Inspector, ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority