

Worker Sprayed with Frac Oil Chemical

SAFETY ALERT

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Enform

Enform is the health and safety association for Canada's upstream oil and gas industry. We provide leading health and safety training, programs and services, touching the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers each year. We are dedicated to the continuous improvement of safety with a vision of eliminating work-related incidents or injuries in the upstream oil and gas industry.

An Industry Product

This document was developed by industry for industry. Working collaboratively, Enform works with the submitting organization representative in developing these documents to improve the industry's hazard awareness. Canada's leading oil and gas industry trade associations support the use of shared information to help companies of all sizes improve performance.

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For more information on this event, please contact: safety@enform.ca

Description of Incident:

On September 6, 2013 during the routine maintenance of frac equipment, a vacuum truck operator was sucking out the chemical totes at the blender. During this task one of the hoses became plugged. The vacuum truck operator took the suction hose with a male end fitting and attempted to hold it together with his hands to the other male end of the plugged hose. When the plugged obstruction (gelled frac oil) let go, the hoses jumped and came apart and he was sprayed in his face and upper body with the gelled frac oil substance. The driver was not wearing chemical goggles when the incident occurred.

The chemicals were X-link, gel activator and breaker. The vacuum truck driver was taken immediately to the shower unit on location, showered down and was rushed to the Grande Prairie hospital by the medical staff on location. The worker was later released from the Hospital with minor skin and eye irritation.

	<p>Hoses with two male ends being held together by hand during incident</p>
	<p>Proper adapter to be used to connect two male hoses</p>

By industry, for industry

Corrective/Preventive Actions:

Investigation provided the following recommendations:

1. Communicate this safety alert to all relevant workers and personnel (e.g. vacuum truck operators).
2. Safe work procedures to be reviewed and applied as required.
3. Personal protective equipment to be identified during the pre-job hazard assessment and donned as required.