

## IMCA Safety Flash 02/97

October 1997

IMCA has recently received a number of safety notices from member companies. This note summarises three key incidents.

It is planned to issue further notices at 6-8 week intervals, each covering three or more incidents.

Our thanks to members for allowing us to give wider dissemination to the lessons learned from their incidents. Please consider sending in those produced by your company, which you consider could benefit the industry by being given wider circulation.

### 1 Contamination of Divers by Unknown Liquid

Two divers, when disconnecting a flange on a pipeline, encountered what appeared to be 'water' escaping from the flange.

The fluid was subsequently found to contain toxic volatile condensate compounds.

When the first diver returned to the diving bell, the liquid on his suit/umbilical contaminated the atmosphere of the bell, to a point where he and the bellman became irrational. They had to be assisted by the second diver who returned to the bell later and was still wearing his helmet.

The incident highlights the need to assume that any fluid emanating from a pipeline could be hazardous. This specific incident is currently subject to a detailed and comprehensive investigation by those involved.

It is recommended that members check that their guidelines to divers contain such a caution.

### 2 Nitrox Misuse

A third party fitted the wrong regulator on a Nitrox cylinder despite the fact that the quad was fitted with plastic shields marked 'Diving Gas'. The regulator was of a type used for inert gas flushing or pressure testing.

Had the wrong regulator been attached to a 45/55 mix the consequences could have been severe.

IMCA Members should ensure that at any work site where Nitrox is used, the valve shrouds are locked off, and personnel warned of the potential for, and adverse consequences from fitting the wrong type of regulator.

### 3 Object falling from Crane

An IMCA Member reported that during mobilisation a hydraulic jack dropped onto the main deck while work was being carried out on the straightener in the crane tower.

The Contractor involved elected to tape off the area under the crane tower to prevent CI personnel walking under the tower during operations.