

HSE Incident – #299 Steam Burn

What happened?

During bleed off, the operator switched hands to turn the valve just as the pressure died off and the steam direction changed. This caused a jet of steam to go directly up his sleeve trapping the heat and causing a burn.

How did it happen?

Steam was able to get directed up the operators sleeve as the gloves being worn were not long enough to cover the sleeve cuff on his shirt.

What did we learn?

Longer heat resistant gloves should be worn when operating valves during bleed offs. These gloves would cover the cuffs which would stop steam being able to travel up a sleeve. An engineered pipe with elbow would be able to direct the steam away from the operator.

How can we improve?

Alter procedures and SOPs to include the use of longer heat resistant gloves for bleed off procedures and engineer an elbow and pipe with adjustable extension and mac union connection to direct steam away from the operator during bleed offs.

