



SGN/SEB/979

High Volume Gas Escapes (HVGE) on Non-Routine Operations (NRO)

Managers, Operatives and Contractors Involved with Safe Control of Operations

Introduction

There is a requirement for a contingency plan in the event of an emergency occurring on NROs. These plans will ensure the safety of operatives/third parties on site, protect property and the network. If a catastrophic failure does occur that results in a HVGE (see, feel, or hear gas), the Competent Person (CP) must follow the on-site contingency plan, which will usually require the CP to remove operatives/third parties from danger and then initiate the off-site contingency plan. The CP or operatives must not deviate from the plan by attempting any repairs or entering the exclusion zone.

Only CPs and Operatives that have been trained and deemed competent in dealing with HVGE in accordance SGN/PM/EM/71 - Management Procedure for Dealing with Gas Escapes and Other Emergencies can undertake these incidents.

Note: The only exception to this is where the CP and Operatives are trained in HVGEs, and the contingency plan allows repairs to be carried out.

NRO HVGE Requirements

The CP must not deviate from the NRO contingency plan. Where the contingency plan does not result in ending a HVGE, the following steps must be undertaken:

- Continue to safeguard life and property on site.
- Call the 0800 111999 National Gas Emergency Service number and report the gas leak.
- Escalate to the Authorising Engineer (AE) and request assistance of a HVGE Manager and Escape Locate Repair (ELR) Team if not already on site.
- HVGE Manager to complete Hazard Zone HVGE assessment tool to determine hazard zoning (Red, Amber Green).
- The results of the assessment will determine the requirements for PPE and entry requirements for each zone.
- HVGE Manager to complete a Permit to Work for Red Zone working.
- Write a recovery NRO and obtain approval from the AE.
- HVGE ELR team to complete the repair.

It is crucial that when things go wrong, the CP and the team follow the contingency plan. If the contingency plans fail and a HVGE ensues, only trained competent HVGE Managers and ELR teams can remedy the situation. If you are not trained or competent to deal with HVGE, you must always safeguard life, secure the area, and wait for assistance.

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