



What Would Good Have Looked Like?

Removing Air lines – Residual Pressure

ExxonMobil

What Happened?

Whilst disconnecting the air line between the drill rig and a compressor a driller put a wrench onto an air line (with the aim to loosen the connection) without checking if there was stored pressure within the line. The driller was reminded to check for residual stored pressure in the line before loosening the connection.



What's the Worst Thing That Could Have Happened?

The airline may have contained pressurised air up to 170 psi. Loosening the connection could have resulted in the sudden release of pressurised air which would have whipped the hose back against the whip-check and could have caused serious injury to the driller.

What could have been done?

- As soon as the air compressor was turned off (when the drilling works finished) the residual air in the line should be released through the drill string (away from all operatives in the working area).
- Before disconnecting the air hose the air line should always be checked and any residual air pressure released by slowly opening the valve.

... Remove the air, before you lose your hair.