

Date: 11/11/2021

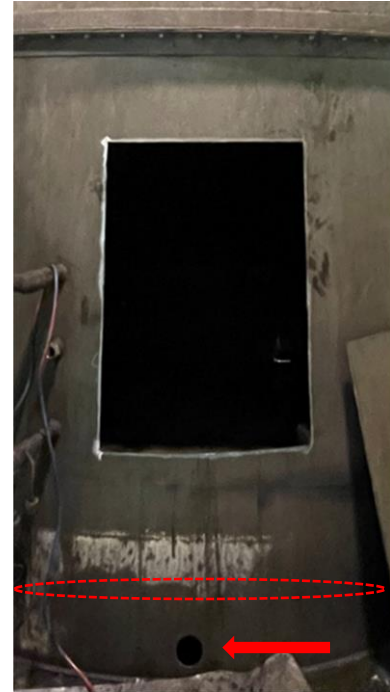
Region: Kennewick, Industrial Division

Project: LWBW – Shutdown

Incident Title: Trust but Verify – Confined Space Near Miss and Stop Work Use

Summary

An Apollo Industrial Team was tasked with working inside of a tank, classified as a confined space. Before entering the tank, Apollo team members were able to identify and test the atmosphere of a false bottom even though it was originally reported that the tank had a solid bottom. During the atmospheric testing it was then found by Apollo that the 4-gas meter provided by the customer was out of calibration. The Apollo Supervisor was able to grab an Apollo calibrated monitor and found that the atmosphere under the tank bottom was high in CO and had LEL readings. Apollo team members were then instructed by the customer that regardless of the false bottom atmosphere, they should proceed with work in the tank because it wasn't where the hazard was. Apollo Supervisor **stopped all work** and refused to enter the space until all hazards were eliminated.



What Went Right?

- Apollo did not “take the word” that the tank bottom was solid but verified and found it wasn't.
- Apollo Supervisor had an air monitor that was calibrated.
- Apollo purged and ventilated false bottom before entering space.
- Apollo team did not waver from training or safety values. Even though the customer pressured otherwise.
- Apollo left ports for the false bottom to be filled with concrete.

What Went Wrong?

- It was originally communicated that the tank to be entered did not have a false bottom.
- The customer provided air monitor had not been calibrated in over a year, therefore was not reliable.
- Apollo was instructed by the customer to enter the space, regardless of the alarm because work was being performed above the false bottom.
- All plant provided air monitors on the floor were found to be out of calibration.

Lessons Learned

- **Trust but verify.** Verify that the construction of the tank or equipment matches the information given.
- **Verify customer provided equipment/training.** Especially in high hazard situations.
- **Use your stop work authority.** Even if you get customer push back. VALUE Safety.
- **Training Works.** Apollo Supervisor stated his awareness of the situation was from training & not experience.