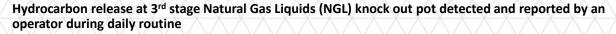




We watch for weak signals

- We proactively look for indicators or signals that suggest future problems.
- We speak up about potential issues even if we are not sure they are important.
- We persistently explore the causes of changing indicators or unusual situations.







An operator carrying out routine checks detected a slight smell of gas which he was unable to locate visually or with the use of a personal gas monitor.



The smell was reported to his supervisor who agreed to the use of a thermal imaging camera to detect the source.



A permit was raised and the camera was used to check all the pipework and valves in the area.



A wisp of gas was identified coming from a section of the pipe with slight scabbing on it. Using the gas meter there was no reading at 50cm, 10cm or 5cm. Only when placing the hose from the portable gas meter directly at the scab was a reading of 3.5%Vol detected.



The supervisor was informed and a risk assessment was conducted to determine that it was safe to continue operating in the area with suitable control measures in place.



As a result of the observation, the decision was taken by the asset team to shut down part of the plant in order to effect a permanent repair.



Historically weeps like this would have gone undetected until they were significantly worse, creating the potential for a Major Accident event. Depending on circumstances, it could result in a reportable gas release or a fire/explosion if an ignition source were present.







- What sort of weak signal might indicate future problems?
- If you identify a potential issue, what further actions do you take?
- How do you continue to be proactive in looking for weak signals?





