

**Title: *Service Alert 05-006-Rev1***  
**Reference Surface Incident Investigation**  
**Bleeder Plug Release Under Pressure w/ Injury**

**Submitted by: N. American Surface Operations**

**Equipment Involved: 7 1/16" 5k Wedge Gate Valve**

**Description:**

At approximately 11:00 AM on 4/5/05 an employee was tearing down a 7 1/16" 5k wedge gate valve returned from field rental service. While removing the bottom grease fitting using a 12" adjustable wrench, the fitting was blown out of the valve due to trapped pressure. When the pressure was released from the valve the employee received a large pressure cut on his right forearm.

He made his way from the scene of the incident to the large shop where he received First Aid. An ambulance was called and the employee was transported to the Oklahoma University trauma center. Initial medical evaluation determined muscle, tendon and nerve damage to the right forearm. The employee will require surgery and physical therapy. The incident will be considered recordable and lost time.

Grease fitting became imbedded in bathroom door some 20 ft. away from the valve location.

**Factors contributing to this incident included:** Pressure trapped in the valve. 6 bolts were loosened on the valve bonnet by an unknown person before the valve was received at OKC Reman. This led the employee to believe that the valve had been previously worked on in the field and pressure had been relieved. The grease fitting was not tight. This also led employee to further believe pressure had been relieved.

**Preventative Actions**

Equipment coming into any field location to be repaired **must be checked for trapped pressure, regardless of appearance.** Local work instructions to detail exact procedures to perform steps for verification.

Pressure warning tags to be placed on any valve that cannot be opened or closed manually. Tag will be designed for this purpose.

A more comprehensive JSA will be written to document the process required to check for and relieve pressure and the break down (disassembly) of valves.

