

# High Potential Incident Alert

## Excavator cab windscreen impacted by high velocity projectile

### Incident summary

During demolition works, an excavator with a hydraulic pipe cutting attachment was being used to move (not cut) a section of pipe with a 3/4 inch ball valve attached. During the move the jaws sheared through the valve into a projectile which struck the excavator cabin window at high velocity. The glass withstood the impact and the operator was not injured.

### Critical factors

Critical factors are those that if they were not present the incident would not have occurred. The critical factors were:

#### 1. Risk Management

- > The job hazard assessment did not identify the risk of the shears creating high velocity projectiles during demolition activities.
- > The excavator operator made a decision to use the incorrect equipment for handling a small section of pipe without assessing the risk.

Sharing learnings across the Australian oil and gas industry

Chevron Australia

# 68

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### Key learnings

- > *Always use the correct tool for the job.*
- > *Use protective window mesh screening during high risk demolition works.*

High potential incident alerts are distributed by APPEA for the Australian oil and gas industry to highlight learnings from incidents. For more information or to submit an alert, contact Leanne Drewitt, Project Manager – Safety & Operations, [ldrewitt@appea.com.au](mailto:ldrewitt@appea.com.au) or 08 9426 7202.

