

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES TEST RECORD.

Thornhill Outage 2015 - Confined Space Rescue – HRSG Gas Path

DATE: 06/05/2015

Task

Inspection work was being carried out in the Diverter Damper box area of the HRSG Gas Path / GT exhaust duct. The Gas path is accessed horizontally through an opening approximately 2' square. The area is classified as a confined space and has the following foreseeable specified risks:

- Possible asphyxiation from gases e.g. Natural Gas / methane

These risks are well controlled by E.ON E&M Safety Rules – resulting in a low risk Confined Space area.

There are numerous other residual hazards such as lighting levels and slips trips and falls from the hundreds of studs/bolts within the space as can be seen in the pictures below. Falling onto one of these studs could also cause significant injury.



Pictures showing the trip hazards.



Access hatchway with scaffold boards in place to ease entry over the studs and form part of the emergency arrangements.

Exercise Scenario:

The scenario consisted of a site staff member working in the duct (confined space) complaining of chest pains and suffering a medical emergency (possible heart attack).

The exercise then tested the emergency arrangements and demonstrated the methods of rescue of the injured person.

The rescue was conducted by the contract rescue team from ABFAD – Sean Bell, Ben Fada and Shaun Fisher. ABFAD.

The rescue started when the injured person collapsed and verbally shouted for help/raised the alarm to the standby safety man.

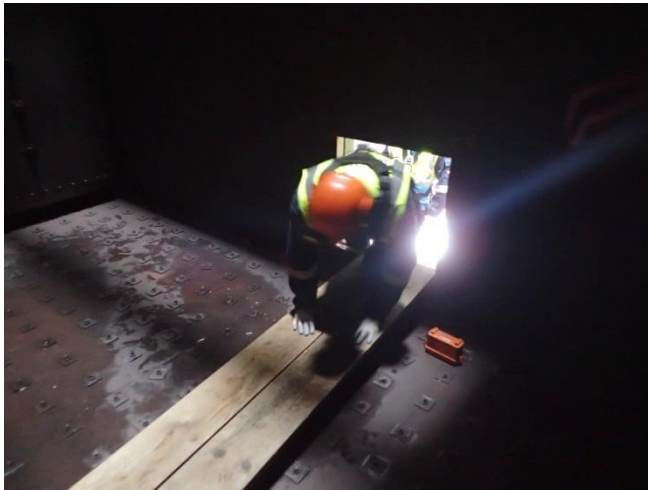


Site Staff member performing inspection task



Site Staff member collapsing with chest pains and raising the alarm

The Standby safety man confirmed the atmosphere remained breathable and then entered the confined space via the access hatch to assess the injured person:



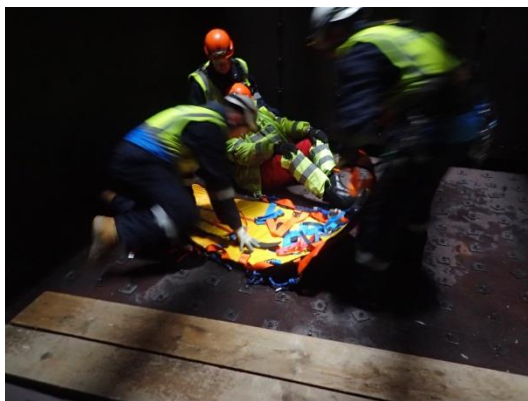
Rescue team entering the confined space



IP receiving initial first aid treatment

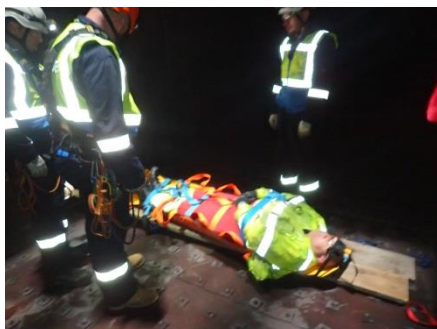
The Rescue team member summoned further rescue team assistance and notified staff to call emergency services.

Following initial assessment, the rescue team secured the IP into a rescue stretcher, to be evacuated from the confined space where further treatment can be given from site staff and emergency services.



IP being secured into stretcher

The rescue team, with additional support from staff and contractors external to the space and using the pre-installed scaffold boards, extracted the IP.





Summary

The exercise was conducted very professionally by ABFAD and the site teams and was a very successful demonstration of a basic, horizontal entry, confined space rescue. This exercise proved the effectiveness of the sites emergency arrangements for confined space work during the outage and gave a visible demonstration to site personnel of the rescue strategy and techniques.

The control of the work in general for this confined space was to a very high standard.

Following on from the exercise, ABFAD also gave site teams the opportunity to test portable Rescue Breathing sets for use on confined spaces where toxic or asphyxiating gases or fumes may be present. Whilst these are not typically used on E.ON sites, this was a good demonstration and should be considered for future work where there is a risk from gas or asphyxiation.

