



SAFETY ALERT NOTIFICATION

This is NOT an investigation report. It is a NOTIFICATION of a Significant Incident that has taken place at a Freeport-McMoRan location. The information below is a preliminary assessment and not a formal investigation.

OPERATION:	El Paso Operations			Incident:	
ISSUED BY:	Dale Gossett / Health and Safety Manager			Injury:	
DATE:	4/9/14			Property Damage:	X
TIME:	11:00 am			Process Loss:	X
LOCATION/DEPARTMENT:	El Paso Refinery Tankhouse				
INCIDENT DESCRIPTION:	<p>On 3/30/14, at approximately 5:15 pm, the El Paso Refinery experienced an arc flash event in the tankhouse on top of one of the refining cells. Cell #26 on Section 11 on 3 had been cut out for repair. At the time of the event this tank had been out of service for 84 days. When a tank is taken out of service for repair, copper bars are put in place over the tank to complete the circuit so electro refining can continue. With the bars being in place for so long the contact points became dirty and were no longer making sufficient contact to carry the current and the tank buss bar began to arc. There were no employees working in or travelling through this section of the Tank house at the time of the event. El Paso's rectifiers are designed to detect this type of event when it happens and quickly shutdown when arcing started. There were no injuries, but there was a process loss of about 30 minutes, and some damage to the bars.</p>				
DETAILS OF INJURY TYPE:	No Injuries				
POTENTIAL FOR INJURY:	Fatality	Lost Time	Permanent Disability	Other Potential	
				Potential for First Aid	
PROBABLE DIRECT CAUSES:	Dirty contacts between copper bars installed over cell, and contact points allowed arcing to start.				
IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE ACTION:	The area was observed; the contacts and suspension bars were cleaned and put back into place. The rectifier was re-energized.				
REQUIRED ACTIONS:	<p>Procedure was updated to ensure that the buss/bars will be cleaned and put back into place every 28 days going forward. This will be communicated and documented.</p> <p>Review current energy control procedures with subject matter experts to identify best practice for these types of events.</p> <p>Maintenance team will use thermography to observe tanks that are out of production and take readings/notes on how they are performing. If problems are found (heating) they will be corrected.</p> <p>Refinery will look into better ways to take a cell out of service, such as a cut out bridge like is used in some FMI EW's.</p> <p>Refinery will communicate with and benchmark other refineries with similar processes to identify current practices. EW's will also be reviewed but it should be noted that while similar in some ways, the two processes are different.</p>				



This is NOT an investigation report. It is a NOTIFICATION of a Significant Incident that has taken place at a Freeport-McMoRan operation and is being communicated to enhance safety awareness should a similar situation exist. The information above is a preliminary assessment of the event and is not a formal investigation.