

## **ACCIDENT ALERT**

**On July 30, 2013,** Three worker conducting well site production equipment repairs were injured while repairing a separator containing flammable liquids. Based on information gathered the crew had opened some hatches on the separator and were in the process of opening a hatch with a powered drill when liquid began to leak from the hatch. The crew was directed to tighten the bolts on the hatch to stop the leaking. As one worker began to warn the worker to not use the powered tool to re-tighten the bolts an explosion occurred.

### **Significant Factors**

An inadequate assessment of the liquids in the separator was performed. If a proper assessment was performed employees would have likely recognized the fire hazard present and the need to control ignition sources.

An inadequate attempt to control ignition sources occurred in that an electric impact wrench was being used around flammable liquids.

### **Recommendations**

Ensure all employees working on well site production equipment are adequately trained to understand the inherent hazards associated with the process equipment and materials likely to be present at the site and in the process equipment.

Ensure all employees working on well site production equipment are adequately trained recognize the inherent hazards and methods to be used to avoid the hazard associated with the process equipment and materials likely to be present at the site and in the process equipment.