

NTPC Health & Safety Alert

Maintenance Free Batteries



Background

Recently an incident occurred at an NTPC power plant where the top of a “Maintenance Free” battery exploded. An investigation found that the battery was low on fluid and the explosion was likely initiated by a short across the exposed cells which ignited gases that were produced in the charging process.

Practical Guidance

These batteries should be inspected every month when the Plant Operator or Plant Superintendent performs their month-end inspections.

The inspection procedure involves:

1. Checking the sides of the battery for bulging
2. Checking for irregular voltage
3. Checking amperage draw from the charger (if the battery is drawing high amps while sitting, this indicates the battery is failing)

If any of the above conditions are found, report it immediately to your manager and record it on the inspection checklist.

*** Note: No water is to be added to “Maintenance Free” batteries. Water can only be added to Maintainable batteries that are equipped with vent caps.**

Maintenance staff will conduct in-depth inspections on batteries during their 120 day maintenance check of the plant.

For more information contact your manager or the Health and Safety Department.

