

SAFETY BULLETIN

No 10/030

Date Oct 11

Working in refrigerant Plant Rooms

The Institute of Refrigeration has issued a safety bulletin following an incident that took place in a shopping centre basement plant room where four workers were asphyxiated. The atmosphere was thought to have had a high concentration of refrigerant following a leak from the plant.

Engineers and Technicians are reminded of the following.....

The key lessons are as follows:

Where fitted all refrigerant gas detectors and alarm systems must be regularly tested and recalibrated according to the manufacturers recommendations and at least annually for fixed systems and every 3 months for portable devices.

- Ensure there is adequate ventilation.
- Check all equipment prior to use.
- Work in accordance to training and safe work instructions

Actions in the event of an emergency.

If an engineer enters a plant room and sees someone collapsed on the floor they must assume that the cause of the problem could be oxygen starvation. Therefore, they should only approach the person if they are certain there is adequate ventilation, otherwise, they are advised to remain in a ventilated area and call the fire and ambulance services.

This document is available on the J&E Hall web site/My J&E Hall/HSQE area/Health & Safety/Safe Work Instructions.

Please contact the HSQE Function for further guidance.

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Regards

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