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“Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fibre which was widely used in both building and engineering materials for its strength, heat and chemical resistance. This can cause serious diseases including mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis which are often fatal. These diseases do not have an immediate effect, they often take a long time to develop, but once diagnosed, it is often too late to do anything.



Example of an Asbestos Gasket

## LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuting told the court that the company had failed to identify in the risk assessment for this job that there were asbestos gaskets attached to the non-return valve.

HSE also told the court that records held on site, which could have helped identify the presence of asbestos, were not adequate and that the maintenance team leader involved in this task had not undertaken asbestos awareness training.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE Inspector Paul Miller said: “In this case SSE Hornsea Ltd substantially failed to manage the risks associated with asbestos found within their process plant and have needlessly risked the future health of 13 people. Employers should ensure that they have in place adequate arrangements for both the identification and management of asbestos which may be found in buildings or process plant.”

(Editors Note: More details on asbestos etc can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/>)

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LOCATION:	OTHER
ACTIVITY:	MAINTENANCE & HOUSEKEEPING
SUB ACTIVITY:	N/A

ALERT STATUS:	Normal
DATE ISSUED:	25/01/2018 15:12:19
INCIDENT No:	01480