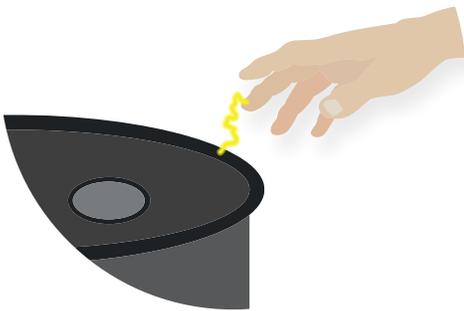


In flammable atmospheres there may be hidden threats lurking in the plant facility, in the form of “isolated conductors”. These are conductive objects which are either inherently or accidentally insulated from earth during the operation or process, so as to mitigate any static electricity generated from safely discharging, resulting in accumulation of charge on the object. Concerns associated with isolated conductors can be mitigated by effective grounding and bonding.

The ability to store charge on isolated items depends on their size, surrounding materials and proximity to other conductors and may be very different under installed or non-installed conditions.



If an isolated conductor comes into proximity with another object at a lower potential, much of this energy could be unleashed in the form of an incendive spark.



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The Hidden Dangers of Isolated Conductors in Hazardous Areas

Isolated conductors may be anything from a large list of commonly used items, including metal flanges, fittings or valves in pipework systems; drums, containers or vessels; road tankers, IBCs; and even people!



Whenever a charged object touches an uncharged one, the charge is shared equally between them. This can be a potent source of electrostatic charging and examples include charged sprays, mists or dusts striking or settling on solid objects.



Leading the way in hazardous area static control



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