



## Filter Pot Sock Filter Changeout Safety Talk

High-velocity flushing utilizes filter pots for trapping contaminants in filter socks. Filter socks catch particulates and prevent them from continuing through the system being flushed. Depending on the velocity achieved and how dirty a system might be, filter socks are required to be changed. This process can result in incident and injury, including unexpected pressure releases, spills, and chemical exposure.

This safety talk provides general work practices and safety precautions specific to this task that can be followed to avoid harmful contact with chemicals and prevent environmental incidents.

### Safety Precautions

- The crew should have the SDS for all chemicals being used during the task.
- Chemical showers and eyewash stations should be made available in case workers are exposed to chemicals.
- At least one fire extinguisher should be staged near the filter pot.
- Individuals should wear the proper personal protective equipment, including a hard hat, safety glass, face shield, chemical resistant suit, and gloves at a minimum.

### General Safe Work Practices During the Task

- Filter pots should be in the off position with any residual pressure having been released before changing filter socks.
- Filter pots should be staged in containment in case of spills from overflow or leaks from loose connections.
- All connections to the filter pot should be inspected to avoid leaks.
- Utilize a ladder when needed to reach the lids of filter pots.
- Bleed off pressure prior to opening filter pots to gain access to filter socks.
- Carefully remove the filter sock from the filter pot with two hands and place inside of containment to prepare for disposal.
- Install the new filter sock while slowly plunging it into the filter pot to avoid overflow.
- Fasten filter pod lid and verify the seal is tight.
- Verify all connections are satisfactory prior to resuming flushing operations.

### Summary

Changing filter socks located in filter pots can be a hazardous activity. Pressure releases and direct contact with chemicals can lead to exposure and potential harm to the environment. Supplying safety showers and eyewash stations can assist in combatting chemical exposure. Following specific job steps such as bleeding off residual pressure can eliminate unexpected releases.



**Discussion points:**

1. How can unexpected pressure releases in filter sock changeout be avoided?
  
2. How can the proper PPE protect individuals while changing out a filter sock?