



Boilers and Pressure Vessels	Ref. No.: BPV-22-01
ADVISORY	Date: January 4, 2022

Subject: BPV Incident Reporting

Purpose

This advisory clarifies reporting requirements for boiler and pressure vessel incidents.

Background

Section 8(2) of Ontario Regulation 220/01 (Boilers and Pressure Vessels) requires that explosions, ruptures and accidents involving boilers and pressure vessels be immediately reported to TSSA, with more detailed follow-up reporting required within 48 hours of the occurrence:

Reporting requirements

- 8.** ... (2) Where an explosion or rupture of a boiler, pressure vessel, fitting or piping occurs or where an accident arises out of its operation or use that causes injury or death to a person or property damage, the owner, the operator or any other person responsible for it or in immediate charge of it shall,
- (a) forthwith notify the director, in person or by telephone, of the occurrence and provide full details of it; and
 - (b) within 48 hours after the explosion, rupture or accident occurs, send the director and insurer, if it is insured, a written report of the circumstances of the occurrence.

All incidents must be reported through the Ontario Spills Action Centre. For more information, see <https://www.tssa.org/en/about-tssa/report-an-incident.aspx?mid=238>.

Incident data is used by TSSA to support risk-informed decision-making and harm reduction.

The document incorporates the recommendations of a working group of industry leaders, experts and other stakeholders in boilers and pressure vessels convened by TSSA to develop clear and consistent definitions for incidents and near-misses.

Incident Reporting Guidance

A reportable occurrence under s. 8(2) of the regulation is described in this document as an “**incident**”. As per the regulation, incidents include, with respect to a regulated boiler, pressure vessel, fitting or piping:

- an explosion or rupture
- an accident that causes injury or death, or property damage

Reporting requirements for both types of incidents are clarified as follows:

Incident Type	Description/Guidance	Exceptions
an explosion or rupture	<p>Any explosion is a reportable incident, even if it does not result in injury</p> <p>A rupture includes any pressure boundary failure (PBF) of an exterior wall that results in leakage or loss of primary containment of the service fluid (LOPC). Ruptures therefore include leaks</p>	An LOPC (leak) that does not require immediate shutdown for repair or replacement does not need to be reported
an accident that causes injury or death, or property damage	Miscellaneous occurrences (MO's) are reportable events arising from operation or use of regulated equipment without the failure of a pressure boundary but that results in injury, fatality or property damage	N/A

Owners and operators should develop and implement incident reporting processes that incorporate the definitions above.

Near-Misses

A near-miss is a prevented or avoided incident by the activation of the last line of defence in the safety management systems (SMS) that is protecting the regulated equipment (e.g., rupture discs).

As per the reporting requirements of the regulation, a near-miss is **not reportable**.

Timing of Notification

Equipment owners, operators, inspectors and repair contractors are reminded that initial incident reporting is required “forthwith” after the incident and should confirm that notification has taken place before starting any repairs on the equipment.