Oil and Gas Industry Safety Alert 003

What happened: While performing new compressor start up operations, the dump line between the separator and the tank was thrown back over the top of the separator. The separator dumped at 80 PSI. The dump line was not properly secured to the open top tank causing the line to lift up and over the separator. There were no injuries.

Facts and Findings:
1. Personnel were positioned near the separator to return well to normal production operations.
2. The low pressure separator dumped at 80 PSI.
3. The line was not secured to the pit tank, allowing it to be propelled back over the top of the separator, narrowly missing personnel.

Recommendations:
1. Ensure all lines are properly secured prior to start up operations.
2. Consider developing start up procedures to include equipment checks prior to start up.