



Handbook of Materials Failure Analysis

With Case Studies from the Oil and Gas Industries



Edited by
Abdel Salam Hamdy Makhlof
Mahmood Aliofkhazraei



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Butterworth-Heinemann is an imprint of Elsevier



Butterworth Heinemann is an imprint of Elsevier
The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB, UK
225 Wyman Street, Waltham, MA 02451, USA

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

ISBN: 978-0-08-100117-2

For information on all Butterworth Heinemann publications
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Printed in the United States of America



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Preface

Failure analysis and prevention are important issues for all engineering materials and industrial structures. One of the most important engineering fields which plays an essential role in failure analysis is Materials Engineering. Whether the failure happens in service or during the production process (manufacturing defects), failure analysis must be performed in order to prevent it from happening again in future. Another important factor which must be precisely investigated is to determine whether or not the metallic components and structures are being used well.

There have been several reports of catastrophic accidents in the Oil and Gas industry in countries including the United Kingdom, Kuwait, the United States of America, Venezuela, etc. Most, if not all of these accidents, were due to materials failure and were thought to be the cause of a number of workers being killed, in addition to the environmental crises. For instance, in 1993, a natural gas pipeline running along a highway in Venezuela, exploded. The rapid combustion of the spreading gas caused a hellish situation that lead to the deaths of at least 50 people. It should be noted that a lot of factors, including bad design, improper manufacturing, low-grade raw materials in the pipe production, improper joining of the pipes and/or corrosion, can be the cause of such incidents.

This handbook covers analysis of materials failure in the Oil and Gas industry, where a single failure can result in devastating consequences for people, wildlife, the environment, and the economy of a region. The book combines introductory sections on failure analysis with numerous real-world case studies of pipelines and other types of materials failure in the Oil and Gas industry, including joint failure, leakage in crude oil storage tanks, failure of glass fiber-reinforced epoxy pipes, and failure of stainless steel components in offshore platforms, amongst others.

This handbook contains many failure real-world cases and case studies covering a wide spectrum of materials failure related to petroleum, petrochemicals, oil, and gas applications. The editors thank all the contributors for their excellent chapter contributions to this handbook, and for their hard work and patience during preparation, and production of the handbook. We sincerely hope that the publication of this handbook will help people from Industry and Academia to get the maximum benefits from the experience contained in the published chapters.

Summer 2015
Abdel Salam Hamdy Makhlof
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