



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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## ALERT 05 – 40

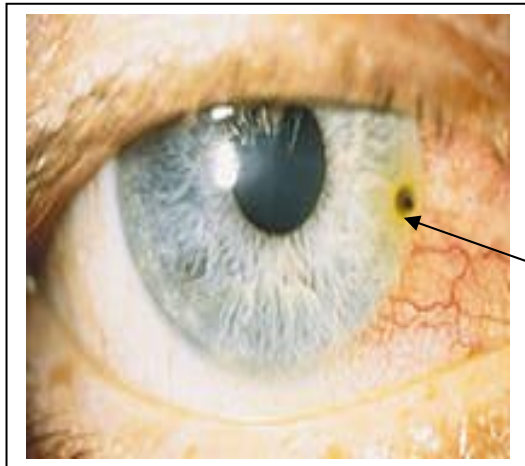
### WELDING OPERATIONS RESULTS IN AN EYE INJURY

#### WHAT HAPPENED:

A rig welder began to feel discomfort in his eye. Believing it may be a flash burn he stopped working, checked all PPE and then continued with his normal duties. The next morning the discomfort continued so he decided he should see a Physicians Assistant. A small piece of metal was found and a rust ring had formed. He was treated and returned to work.

- **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS**

- Patients who experience a foreign body of the cornea generally have mild, moderate, or occasionally severe pain.
- Sometimes, the discomfort is described as a scratchiness or the aptly named “foreign-body sensation.” Excessive tearing, blurred vision and sensitivity to light are also common complaints.
- The most critical sign is the finding of particulate matter at the surface of or embedded within the cornea. If the foreign body is metallic, you’ll often see a rust ring surrounding the object. If the foreign object remained embedded in the cornea for 24 hours or more, you may see a ring infiltrate surrounding the site.



Example of a  
Rust Ring

#### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company recommended the following:

- Qualified medical personnel must examine all eye injuries, no matter how small
- Early treatment of eye injuries can prevent them from becoming much more serious, including “Rust Ring”

**The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company’s attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.**

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This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices

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