



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 05 – 46

## USE OF IMPROPER CUTTING TOOLS RESULT IN INJURIES

### WHAT HAPPENED:

An employee was attempting to cut an opening through the lid of a plastic five-gallon bucket of chemicals. He was holding the knife in his left hand while holding the bucket with the other hand. The employee also used his feet to stabilize the bottom of the bucket. While cutting the opening, the employee's knife slipped out of the hole that was being cut. The knife entered the employee's right palm just below the thumb resulting in a laceration that required 10 sutures to close. In the last two months there have had two identical injuries involving knives and within the last six years, the company has experienced 34 total incidents involving knife injuries. Many of the injuries resulted in recordable incidents.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

Improper cutting tool was used for the job. In addition improper procedure was used for opening bucket lids. The JSA on "opening buckets" did not cover the use of a knife.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** To address this incident, this company instructed rig personnel:

- THE USE OF ANY AND ALL KNIVES WILL STOP IMMEDIATELY.
- Use alternate cutting devices in place of knives.
- Follow the STOP program and other safety guidelines when selecting the proper tool for a job.
- Follow written procedures when opening the lid of a bucket.
- Review and revise JSA's to correspond with the job at hand.

IADC Note: Refer to Safety Alert 01-05.

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**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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Issued December 2005