



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 06 – 21

FORKLIFT CUT ELECTRICAL LINE WITH OUTRIGGER

WHAT HAPPENED:

Derrickman / forklift operator entered the forklift and observed that the driver's side outrigger was up. The operator failed to notice that the off side outrigger had been placed on the ground to serve as wheel chocks. He backed the forklift up, and then moved forward towards the mud storage area when he heard a pop. The off side outrigger had struck and cut the 480 volt power supply cable to the rig camp transformer. When the power supply cable was severed, the breaker was tripped. The operator jumped from the forklift unharmed.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Employee had self imposed haste due to first day in position, and failed to perform a required walk around inspection prior to operating the forklift. In the absence of proper wheel chocks the outrigger was used as a substitute. The individual was recently trained on the forklift, but failed to follow procedures taught in the course. The "Wells" team management had made a decision not to follow the new spotter policy issued by the operator.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company instructed personnel to do the following:

A check list will be developed and posted on the forklift to remind operators to conduct safety checks prior to operating. The practice using the outrigger as wheel chock will be stopped. The individual will be retrained before allowed to operate any forklift. The Operator's well site management will re-evaluate the decision of not following Operator's Spotter Policy.

Key Message: Personnel may be trained in their job scope, policies, and procedures; however, it does not necessarily mean that they will make the proper choices not to take short cuts.

Cut Electric Cable



Area that forklift traveled



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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