



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 13

UNGUARDED ENGINE FAN RESULTS IN AN INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:

While attempting to check the water level in the generator, the mechanic had stepped up on the engine mount and placed his hand through a gap in the radiator fan guard to lever him up and gain access to the radiator cap. As the generator was running at this time, he suffered cuts and abrasions to four fingers when the fan blade made contact with his hand



WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Two protective guard bars on the generator fan had been previously removed for cleaning purposes, leaving a gap large enough to place the hand in harms way.
2. No climbing device was available for the employee to gain access to the radiator cap.
3. The hazard caused by the unauthorized alteration of the fan guard had not been noticed during rig safety inspections or by the mechanic

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- The opening in the fan guard was immediately fixed and all other generator fans were checked for a similar safety problem
- A ladder was specially built and installed to allow workers safe access to the radiator cap
- Training was given to ensure rig safety audits and the hazard identification process is effective and that effort is made to safeguard equipment
- Safety guards are provided for a reason. These guards must not be altered in any way without approval from Houston HSE department.

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.

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

Copyright © 2005 International Association of Drilling Contractors All rights reserved.

Issued April 2005