



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 11 – 30

ACCIDENTAL TRIGGERING OF POWER WASHER RESULTS IN FOOT INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:

The injured person sustained a severe injury to his foot with the power washer while cleaning out the mud pit. The injured person was cleaning the mud pit and was using the power washer and super sucker to cut a path to the jet barrel. The sludge under the injured person's feet gave way and the injured person lost his balance. In an attempt to catch himself, the injured person tried to use the wand as a cane. The injured person inadvertently placed the tip of the wand on top of his foot and while falling pulled the trigger spraying water set at 1500 psi through his boot and also through his foot. The foot was severely injured and the injured person was admitted to the hospital for observation and scheduled for surgery to remove the debris from his foot. The injured person could lose his foot if the infection doesn't improve.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The sludge gave way causing the injured person to fall.
- The tip of the wand was accidentally placed on top of the foot.
- The injured person pulled the trigger of the power washer while falling.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company instructed rig personnel in the following:

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Take extra precaution when working with any tool that may be under pressure.
- Using a power washer with a longer wand would make it harder for the individual to contact himself or accidentally spray towards the body.
- Power washers used at such pressure are very dangerous and can cause severe injury to body parts. (**Note:** You should never use a power washer to clean your boots or any other clothing while on your body. No Exception!!)

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

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