# Safety Alert

**From the International Association of Drilling Contractors**

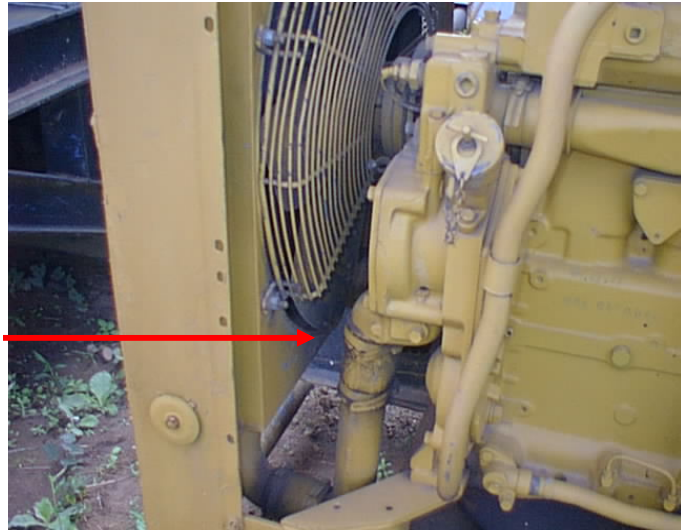
**ALERT 10 – 03**

## IMPROPER GUARDING RESULTS IN MTO

**WHAT HAPPENED:**

While checking the radiator of a standby generator for overheating, the injured employee placed his hand on the top, the middle, and then the bottom of the radiator. When he placed his hand on the bottom of the radiator his thumb was stuck by the unguarded fan. The injury resulted in the thumb requiring stitches.

Missing Guard



**WHAT CAUSED IT:**

- The water pump was not working properly and the temperature gauge was not of adequate range.
- The injured decided to check the engine temperature by feeling if the radiator was hot in different areas without considering hazards of the missing guard.
- This generator had been set in the generator room 6 months previously and although started weekly, no one noticed the missing lower section of fan guard during any weekly inspections or on the last pictorial survey.
- Although the injured had been trained in STOP he failed to use the ABBI technique (Above, Below, Behind, and Inside).
- This type of hazard was previously noted and company safety bulletins distributed yet we failed to detect the hazard.
- While incidents can occur for a number of reasons ALL incidents are preventable.

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

- The supervisors suggested adding a section to the weekly surveys to include stand by equipment, since the focus is usually on equipment in daily use.
- Guarding was placed around the bottom of the radiator fan.
- Rig personnel were instructed to review previously issued Safety Bulletins regarding equipment guarding.
- Equipment can be properly maintained, inspected, and repaired and personnel can be properly trained to avoid using improper procedures.
- This is the 3rd injury of this type in the last 18 months. Don't be number 4. Look **A**bove, **B**elow, **B**ehind, and **I**nside before proceeding with your work.

**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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**Issued January 2010**