



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 10 – 22

WELDER'S FLASH (*Photokeratitis*)

WHAT HAPPENED:

While welders were making modifications to the lines and collector for an additional mud tank. A welder's assistant was assisting the welder by holding the lines and collectors of the centrifuge pump so that they could be welded in place. The helper wasn't wearing the appropriate PPE (welding shield) instead he improvised his own mask using his dark safety glasses and a piece of dark glass (obtained from a broken welder's mask). Every time the welder struck an arc, the helper would place the improvised shield in front of his face. Due to the inadequate improvised shield, the worker later suffered welder's flash (pain, sensation of dirt particles, photophobia, and difficulty opening eyes) in both eyes.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Welder's helper did not use welding shield and appropriate PPE for welding.
- Welder didn't stop the operation so that the proper PPE could be used.

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

Instructed site supervisors to:

- Conduct periodic safety audits to verify that welders are following a thorough JSA.
- Conduct a safety talk specific to safe welding operations by immediate supervision.
- Supervision must verify a welder's hood and shield for welding operations are being used by the welder as well as the welder's helper.
- Encourage employees to follow operational and safety procedures by utilizing a SMART Card (Stop Work) and routine PPE inspections.



Welder's helper holding glass from welder's hood.



Glass from welder's hood used for viewing the welding operation.

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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