



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 19

WORKER GETS HIT IN THE EYE BY A PIECE OF STEEL

WHAT HAPPENED:

While in the process of breaking out a high pressure 4" hammer union from the mud pump discharge line, a piece of steel separated from the hammer head and struck a worker in the right eye, penetrating the surface. At the time of this alert preparation, we do not yet know if the sight in the eye will be lost, or what degree of loss will take place.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The injured employee was not wearing the required eye protection previously issued to him. He had them in his shirt pocket, a violation of company policy.
- Inadequate inspection and maintenance of hand tools, the hammer head was mushroomed.
- The injured employee was somewhat inexperienced, and was unsupervised at the time.

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

- Senior management conducted rig site safety meetings to stress and enforce a no exception policy for the use of required PPE.
- More emphasis will be placed on the Company's PPE requirements in the rig site safety induction process
- All rig hand tools were inspected for defects and were repaired or taken out of service where necessary.
- Hand tool inspections will be added to the Quarterly Rig Audit Form as a single line item.
- A Short Service Employee program will be initiated requiring green hard hats to be worn by all short service employees.
- Rig Managers and Toolpushers will divide crews and take responsibility for their supervision accordingly.
- Rig site safety officers will actively work to ensure that all personnel are at all times wearing proper PPE and performing the task at hand in the safest possible manner.
- Rigs to order & maintain sufficient stocks of PPE for all crew members.

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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