



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 21

FALLS FROM MUD MIXING PLATFORM

WHAT HAPPENED:

Employee was mixing barite and removed the chain barrier to allow the forklift to load a new pallet of barite. The safety chain was not replaced. Employee broke the bands and when the band released the sacks shifted. He jumped back and fell off the platform, falling approximately 7 feet, landing on his backside.

A similar incident occurred several years ago. An employee picked up an empty pallet after mixing the product and tossed it to the ground. He was standing on the band and the force of the flying pallet pulled him off the platform. He was 14 feet up and landed on his feet shattering both heels. This injury required several years of rehabilitation.

Another incident occurred when an employee on the mud platform cut the bands on the pallet and was attempting to pull the stuck bands out of the pallet. The band came loose striking his face, knocking off his safety glasses and slicing his eyeball. This became an LTI. There is a proper way to manage pallets and banding.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

There was a failure to replace chain barrier after the pallet was placed on platform. Employee exposed himself to a recognizable hazard by failing to replace the safety chain before continuing work. The employees were placed in harms way due to the bands not being removed before the pallets were placed on the elevated platforms. The platforms had limited working space to remove the bands from the pallets.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company issued the following to rig personnel:

- The chain should be put back in place after the pallet of barite (chemicals) is placed securely on the platform.
- The forklift operator should break and remove all bands on the ground before setting pallet on mud mixing platform.
- Bands should be slowly removed. If stuck on the pallet they should be trimmed flush with the pallet.
- Fork lift operator should have a band cutter for cutting bands.
- Pallets, empty sacks and trash should be removed from the mud platform by the forklift and not tossed to the ground.
- If the mud sacks have shifted on the pallet, or the pallet is in poor condition, sacks should be re-stacked on a good pallet before setting them on the platform.

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.

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