



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01 – 32

FATAL INCIDENT – CREWMAN CRUSHED

WHAT HAPPENED:

While building mud weight a crew of roustabouts were mixing barite using super sack bags. They picked up the bag to begin filling the hopper with barite. As one man reached in to open the “ripcord” on the bag, the bag fell from its lifting system crushing the roustabout between the hopper and the bag. The man died instantly. Two other roustabouts helping in the operation suffered arm injuries.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The lifting system involved in this incident consisted of a lifting ring which fit inside the top of the bag, and was then adjusted to size. The lip of the outside of the ring (approx 1”) was where the bag was lifted, using only the weight of the bag to secure the lifting ring to the bag. There was no way to lock the bag onto the ring and secure the bag so it could not fall.

The investigation found that the lifting system, i.e., the lifting ring does not allow for the bag to be securely attached to the lifting system, thus allowing the potential for the bag to fall off.

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

- A new lifting system has been designed by the owner of the bag. This bag lifting system has straps integrally built into the bag and can be lifted by either forklift or hoist.
- A resting cradle or seat capable of handling the weight of the bags being used on each rig was placed over the mixing hopper so that the bags will be caught by the cradle if the bag does fall.
- Employees were instructed that at no time are they to be within 2 meters (6 feet) horizontally of any big bags while they are being lifting.
- Employees were also instructed that only when the bag is in the protection of the hopper cradle can they approach to open bag.

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.
