



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

---

ALERT 02 – 15

## PRESSURE WASHING INCIDENT RESULTS IN INJECTION INJURY

### WHAT HAPPENED:

An employee was using a pressure washer with a pressure rated at 3,000 psi. The pressure washer had a 5' 2" wand attached to it. The injured was washing the sack room walls and climbed up a fixed ladder that was attached to the bulkhead and started to clean the wall from the top down. He was standing on the ladder and leaning back against the barite hopper tank, which is about 3' 6" from the wall. At some point he turned the wand down and started cleaning the wall downward. As he was cleaning he ran the pressure washer across the top of his rubber boots, resulting in an injection injury to his left foot.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

The employee did not reposition himself after washing what he could above his head. He could have washed the rest of the wall by standing on the floor. He was in a tight position standing on a ladder and leaning against the barite tank with his back, which left approximately 4" between the wall and his feet. He had turned the wand downward to wash a beam that was below his feet when it came in contact with his left boot.

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

- Revised the JSA to indicate that any object being washed be no closer than the length of the wand being used.
- Established a policy that an onshore physician must be advised of all injection type injuries.

---

**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.  
Copyright © 2002 International Association of Drilling Contractors. All Rights Reserved  
Issued April 2002