



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 02 – 18

## HANDLING BOTTLE RACK RESULTS IN CRUSHED FINGER

### WHAT HAPPENED:

During a material handling incident a worker sustained a crushing injury to the tip of the 5<sup>th</sup> finger of his left hand. The worker was guiding a bottle rack that was being offloaded by a crane from the boat to the ground. The bottles in the rack were loosely secured with a chain and shifted when the rack was set on the ground. The shifting bottles caught the 5<sup>th</sup> finger on the left hand and it was crushed between one of the bottles and the angle iron frame of the rack. The skin and nail in the wound area from just above the fingernail was removed. A skin graft had to be applied to close the wound area due to contamination of the excised skin and nail tissue.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The employee was holding on to the frame of the rack with his fingers positioned inside the bottle rack instead of out side the frame.
- The bottle rack was of an old design that did not allow the bottles inside the rack to be securely positioned in place to ensure the bottles would not shift during transport.



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

- It was recommended that the bottle rack should be taken out of service and repaired or redesigned to secure the bottles to prevent shifting during transport.
- A safety meeting on pinch points was conducted for all crewmembers to reemphasize the dangers of pinch points.
- Check all loads for potential shifting cargo prior to commencing the lift.
- Employees were reminded to use tag lines to guide loads into position when appropriate or to use the palm of the hand and not extend fingers into possible pinch points when a load needs to be guided into position.

**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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Issued April 2002