



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 02 – 42

## MATERIAL HANDLING INCIDENT

### WHAT HAPPENED:

An employee had his left middle finger caught between a connecting rod and the body of a power pack for a diesel engine. The power pack was lying on the engine grating walkway and was being moved from the grating walkway platform to the main deck. The 400-pound power pack was pushed along the floor by two men using their feet to move the power pack approximately 15 feet towards a hatch opening to the main deck. At the opening for the watertight door both men attempted to physically pick up the power pack and lift it approximately 7 inches over the hatchway opening. One of the employees decided to lift the power pack by placing both hands inside the body of the cylinder head. On previous lifts he had placed his hand on the connecting rod of the power pack. He changed his hand position because the connecting rod was turning in a circular fashion making it difficult to control the load. As the men were going through the door, the piston body cleared the 7-inch rise but when the men lowered the piston body the rod caught on the hatch opening catching the employee's left middle finger between the rod and the body of the power pack.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

Not recognizing the hazards associated with job. The JSA did mention to beware of pinch points, but didn't identify that putting your hands inside the power pack would be a pinch point. Improper Handling of Materials - need some form of mechanical means when moving an awkward 400-lb. load.

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

Instructed Rig and Maintenance Personnel to change the JSA to:

- Identify all pinch points:
- Change the JSA to identify which mechanical means you are using to move the power packs.
- Use a transport box and dolly to move power packs



Figure 1: Demonstrates hand placement prior to injury



Figure 2: The watertight door that they set the rod down on.

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**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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