



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 03 – 22

## USE OF ROPE & BUCKET TO CATCH SAMPLES RESULTS IN A HAND INJURY

### WHAT HAPPENED:

During a cementing job, the slurry was batch mixed in a 100 bbl Batch Mixer with two agitators. The assistant cementer used a rope with a can to take a sample of the slurry inside the tank. The can / rope became wrapped around one of the agitator's shafts. The employee managed to release the rope from his left hand, however the rope was pulled across his right hand, tearing through the glove and causing damage to 3 fingers and his palm. Due to the severity of the injury, his little and ring finger and part of his right hand were amputated.



### WHAT CAUSED IT:

The pre job inspection did not reveal the absence of a proper sampling outlet. This resulted in the use of a rope and can instead of obtaining the sample from a sampling outlet. In addition, the rotating agitator was close to the access hatch that was used as a sample point. The inside of the batch mixer was dark and the employee could not see the fluid level or the position of the rope and bucket to the rotating agitator. The employee did not receive adequate orientation on the operation of the batch mixer and did not understand the risks involved in this task. Adequate supervision and appropriate risk assessment of the overall job was lacking. Hazard identification process was absent on the rig site, at the base and when manufacturing this batch mixer. There was also non-conformance with the company's Lock Out / Tag Out procedures.

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

- STOPPED the practice of using a rope to take samples in any vessel with paddles or agitator.
- Instructed units to install proper sampling point on all Batch Mixers or vessels.
- If it is not possible to install a sampling point, the agitators must be shut off and the sample caught using a pole with can attached.
- Implement mandatory use of a hazard assessment and a JSA in all cementing operations (including routine jobs).
- Incorporate lessons learned from incident into company hand/finger awareness training package.
- Requested that a stand down day be held company wide to reinforce the use of risk identification tools and techniques.
- Share lessons learned with all companies that use mixing tanks with agitators i.e. STOP taking samples using the practice of dipping a can into an agitated pit.

Note: See IADC Alert 02 – 09 Rope Caught in Mud Pit Agitator Causes RWC

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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.