



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 03 – 24

ATTEMPTED SERVICE TO MICROWAVE RESULTS IN FATAL ELECTROCUTION

WHAT HAPPENED:

An experienced electrician (12 years with the company) opened up the microwave in spite of dire warnings not to do so. A warning label, clearly indicated the potential for high voltage, was prominently displayed on the machine. He put a tester across the disconnected leads with the power on (several thousand volts); the current went to ground through his body, via the ice-making machine next to where he was working - burn marks confirm this. The incident resulted in a fatality.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The electrician did not heed the warning on the cover of the device and removed the safety cover.



CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company issued the following Action Item:

Action: With immediate effect the on-site repair of domestic equipment which contains High Voltage components is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** (such equipment includes; Microwave ovens, Television sets/PC monitors, electric insect killers....etc). These types of equipment should be returned to an Authorised Vendor for repair.

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.
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