



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 03 – 29

SANDBLASTING ACTIVITY RESULTS IN AN INJECTION INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:

While sandblasting in the mud pits, an employee lost control of a sandblasting nozzle, resulting in an injection of sand particles into his left forearm.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

While repositioning in the mud pits, the employee had released the trigger on the blasting nozzle. Before the pressure on the nozzle had completely bled down the employee re-engaged the nozzle trigger. The nozzle pressured up faster than the employee had expected. The employee did not have a good grip on the blasting nozzle. As a result the employee lost control of the nozzle and swept it across his left arm causing the injection injury.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company instructed rig supervisory personnel:

- Review with all crewmembers the proper procedures for sandblasting and be sure that they are **properly trained**.
- Review all hazards associated with this operation and the methods to eliminate them.
- Thoroughly inspect all blasting equipment for damage, malfunction and proper safety guards.
- Put into service additional protective equipment such as leather jackets and gloves to complement standard PPE.

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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Issued July 2003