



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 03 – 35

IMPROPER HAND TOOL USE RESULTS IN INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:

The carpenter was sawing wood using a portable electric circular saw mounted in a table. He was cutting pieces of 7.2 cm (3") wide and 2 meters (6.6 feet) long wood. While he was doing so a gust of wind carrying sand blew on his face and some sand went in his eyes. He immediately tried to wipe his eyes with his left hand while his right hand remained on the wood. He suddenly realized that his right hand was too close to the blade and when he reacted by trying to remove his right hand, the top of his hand contacted with the saw blade resulted in a fracture of point and middle fingers and deep cut on his thumb.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The weather was windy and dusty. There was a misuse of equipment and tools, a skill saw was mounted upside down into a home made saw table. The table was constructed in such a way that it prevented the tool's safety guard from operating. The power handsaw was not designed to be mounted upside down in a table. There was also inadequate leadership/supervision and the workers lacked adequate knowledge/skill. Commitment and Leadership, Risk Management, and Design & Planning were found to be lacking at the site.

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

Actions to prevent reoccurrence and instructions to rig supervisors:

- Stop using any similar home made tables on all the Rigs.
- Stop similar operations until appropriate equipment is available
- Purchase the appropriate table saw with protection guard and emergency shut down switch.
- If it is necessary to have a carpenter workshop on location, improve the carpenter workshop by either relocating it or modifying it to minimize the environmental effects of wind and dust.
- Discuss this accident in the safety meeting and highlight the importance of using Hazard-Identification for jobs, which are carried out outside the rig environment.
- Review all power tools used on rig and campsites and create a hazard risk assessment of their operations and ensure that they are used in the correct manner.

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.