



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 04 – 33

USE OF LOAD BOOMERS RESULTS IN TWO INCIDENTS

WHAT HAPPENED:

Recently there have been two reported incidents resulting from the use of load boomers.

Incident 1:

While preparing to unload a large trash container (roll-off box) an equipment operator climbed upon the deck of a Rolligon (large-wheeled transport vehicle for crossing arctic tundra) to help undo the chain binders/boomer. The operator was on the shadow side of the box on an extremely cold night after having traveled six hours to location. The Rolligon operator, who was responsible for the load, was on the opposite side of the vehicle, unaware of the equipment operator's actions.

The equipment operator did not notice that the chain was twisted as he popped the boomer. When the boomer sprung open, the handle rotated and struck him on his right shin. The force of the impact caused an open wound and fracture of the lower right leg.

Incident 2:

Lever type boomer and chains were used to secure a compressor skid on the bed of a three-ton truck for transport. When releasing the **LEVER TYPE** boomer it moved very quickly and with great force in the direction of the employee. He was hit in the right cheek by the cheater pipe. Injury resulted in fourteen stitches to the right cheek.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Incident 1:

- The job was not the responsibility of the equipment operator but he was trained and wanted to help. It was not a part of his JSA during the pre-job that day.
- The Rolligon operator had loaded and set the binder, he might have known it was twisted or been ready for the shifting in the boomer.

Incident 2:

- Failure to follow company and manufacturers procedure when releasing lever type boomer.
- Employee inserted a cheater pipe over the handle instead of inserting a steel pry bar under the handle to release the boomer.

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

- Consider cam type and ratchet type binders/boomers as a potentially safer option.
- Maintain/Regain Focus - external factors will distract you from the task at hand, weather, timing, sense of urgency, desire to get it done can distract you from focusing on a fairly routine job.
- Line of fire can change at any moment so increase your understanding of where that might be.
- If others are going to help or participate in a routine job, discuss it first with the lead to make sure all are on the same page and ready to perform the task.
- Load binders have specific procedures for installation and removal.
- When using the lever type boomer, **do not** use a cheater pipe to release the handle. If necessary the manufacturer and recommends the use of a steel pry bar under the handle and stay out of the line of fire as the handle releases.
- Recommended use of double cam or ratchet type binders instead of lever type.
- FYI: An example of Load Binders Safe Working Procedures can be obtained at: http://catalog.thecrosbygroup.com/BODY_207.HTM

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.
