



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 07 – 07

FALL ON PLASTIC BERM LINER RESULTS IN AN LTI

WHAT HAPPENED:

The Motorman was attempting to gain access to the diesel tank area by crossing a 12” tall berm and plastic liner. The employee was crossing the berm onto the liner when he slipped and fell into a 16” deep production containment area. His right leg struck a valve in the production containment hole and both bones in his right leg were broken.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- There was no dedicated walking surface across the pit liner.
- It had been raining and liners are especially slick when wet (or frosted in cold weather locations).
- Operator roustabouts had removed the grating from the top of the production piping enclosure the week before and failed to replace it.
- Others who might have seen the open hole failed to replace the grating.

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

General Company Statement: This injury incident resulted from the simple activity of walking, as have many of our incidents in the past year. It is important to review the walking surfaces, whether they are walkways, working surfaces or stairs on the rig or walking surfaces on the job-site. More frequently our operations are using plastic liners and berms around potential environmental exposures such as fuel tanks, fuel transfer equipment and other potential sources of hydrocarbon spills such as engines, mobile equipment and hydraulic units.

Actions:

- Rig personnel need to be constantly aware that walking surfaces should be evaluated as to where walkways need to be installed including properly constructed stairs over berms.
- Rig personnel need to remember that actions by other personnel must be evaluated to ensure that what they do or what they leave is not hazardous to personnel.
- Supervisors must make sure that pre-job meetings are held and all hazards are addressed.
- Rig supervisors are to review rig site plastic liners and berms and ensure proper stairs and walkways are constructed where people will be walking.
- The Hazard Identification and Near Miss Program should help to identify and control hazards such as open holes when the program is used properly.

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
Copyright © 2005 International Association of Drilling Contractors All rights reserved.

Issued February 2007