



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 08 – 04

## FAILURE OF COUNTER BALANCED LIDS FOR WASTE STORAGE AREAS RESULT IN INJURIES

### WHAT HAPPENED:

There have been several incidents when personnel have tried to lift the counter weighted lids on these storage areas which resulted in:

- Strained backs
- Hands and arms caught under the lids
- Head struck by the falling lid

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

This happened due to:

- The weight coming off;
- Not enough weight to hold the lid up;
- The cable breaking due to wear or corrosion;
- The wind blowing the lid down;
- Someone lifting the lid without enough weight to assist in opening the lid or;
- No locking devices to keep the lid open while personnel are working in the storage area.

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

- Eliminate these types of storage areas and replace with 100% polyethylene constructed storage containers that meet the requirements in 40 CFR 264.175 (Containment), and Uniform Fire Code Article 80 (or equivalent local standard).
- To prevent the lids from accidentally closing or falling shut while personnel are working in these storage areas until they can be replaced rig personnel are to temporarily place safety bars or support legs on these lids that can be pinned to hold the lids in place.
- See the picture of the recommended storage areas to use.



**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.**

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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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