



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 10 – 32

HORSEPLAY RESULTS IN INJURIES

WHAT HAPPENED:

Two roustabouts were cleaning a piece of equipment, one with a high pressure wash down gun and the other with a scrub broom. The roustabout with the wash down gun asked the other to move out of the way so he wouldn't get sprayed. The roustabout with the scrub broom waved the broom in the face of the other, and oil base mud with soapy water and diesel splashed into the other's face and ran down behind his glasses into his eye. The injured person had his eye flushed with water.

Two roustabouts were cleaning mud pits, one roustabout was on top and the other was in the pit. The roustabout on top accidentally hosed the other employee, who in turn hosed down the man on top of the pits, and an argument ensued. The result was the worker who was in the pit picked up a rock and struck the other in the buttocks. The injured went to the medic and was given a pain reliever and bed rest for the remainder of the day.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Improper use of water hose and scrub broom.
- One act of horseplay leads to another.
- Non-compliance with company instructions against horseplay.
- Lack of safety awareness by individuals involved.

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

- The company held safety meetings across the rig fleet to address horseplay.
- The rigs involved immediately held a safety stand down with crews to emphasize the point that horseplay will not be tolerated. Safety Stand-Downs are when everyone on location is pulled together to discuss safety issues in an impromptu safety meeting, and they are quite effective and to the point.
- Immediate disciplinary action resulted from both cases, as per the company's zero tolerance toward horseplay.
- The company discussed a previous horseplay incident when two individuals were involved in horseplay (wrestling in the yard) and when one stood up to walk away, the other tackled him from behind. Two knee surgeries later, the person who was tackled still suffers with knee pain and the prospect of another surgery.
- There is no room for horseplay on oil well locations. We are all responsible for our own actions and if horseplay occurs there will be immediate consequences.

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 November 2010