



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01-25

PPE – GOGGLES NEEDED FOR MOVING / HANDLING CHEMICALS

WHAT HAPPENED:

A first aid type incident took place recently involving a short service employee (SSE) who was loading pallet materials. Specifically, the subject employee got soda ash in his eye. The chemical was rinsed out of his eye without any additional treatment, and the employee continued work without any further problems. Although the injured employee was wearing safety glasses at the time of the incident, they did not prevent the chemical from contacting his eye.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Safety glasses are for protection of objects that travel in a direct path to the eye, but will not protect the eye from particles or chemicals that are swirling around due to wind, or are just in the air.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- A JSA should be developed for handling powdered chemicals on pallets.
- A safety meeting should be held prior to loading or handling the pallet materials. The JSA for handling chemicals should be reviewed in the safety meeting.
- It is recommended that chemical goggles be used not only for mixing and the handling of chemicals associated with that task, but also for handling chemicals in tasks such as loading sacks, re stacking, or any other situation where the employee could encounter such exposure.

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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Issued July 2001