



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 03 – 09

IMPROPERLY STORED HAND RAILS RESULTS IN LOST TIME INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:

A welder was attempting to measure a bundle of handrails that were stored on the roof of the choke manifold house. One handrail was lodged above the others in the bundle and when the welder jostled the bundle, the lodged handrail shifted, slipping down. The toe board landed on top of the welder's foot breaking a bone resulting in a Lost Time Injury.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The handrails sections were improperly stored. When the bundle of handrails was placed on the roof, one handrail was left in a position that it could fall if the bundle was jostled.

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

- When moving equipment or materials, consider what could happen.
- Learn to recognize the characteristics of stored energy and learn to control it when working around equipment and materials.
- When approaching a job, such as working with stacked materials, check to ensure that they are secure before beginning the job.
- Use the STOP techniques you learned such as ABBI (Look Above, Below, Behind and Inside) before starting. This can alert you to the presence of an uncontrolled energy source such as gravity.
- When you are involved in any task, first take the time to consider safety. Two minutes could make the difference between completing a job safely and a broken foot.

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.
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