



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 04 –43

EMPLOYEE SLIPPED WHILE GOING DOWN STAIRS

WHAT HAPPENED:

The employee was about to travel down a flight of stairs with both hands on the handrail. As the employee proceeded to make the first step, his foot slipped causing him to grab tighter on the handrails to break his fall. When this happened his arms shifted to the outside of the handrails and his forearm came in contact with a stainless steel wire hanger that was in an opened position. He sustained a 4" to 5" laceration to his left outer forearm.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The stair treads were made from diamond plate, with non-skid step covers that had been painted over and moderately dirty.
1. The stainless steel wire hanger that had been placed directly to the left of the handrail was put in close proximity to the handrail.
2. No one recognized the stainless steel wire hanger as a hazard.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company issued the following action items:

1. The Safety Committees will complete a Hazard Hunt to specifically look for brackets, clamps and other things that could cause a hazard around handrails and stairway handrails.
1. The Safety Committees will complete a Hazard Hunt to specifically check the condition of the non-skid tread on stairways and main deck landings on stairways; also outside hatches opening onto the main deck areas.

Note: Non-skid treads and deck plates must never be painted and shall be kept clean at all times. If the non-skid is worn to the point that it is no longer effective then it must be replaced.

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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