



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 00-25

AMPUTATION — FAN BLADE

WHAT HAPPENED:

A mechanic was attempting to rig up a chain hoist above an engine to assist him in changing out the power pack. He attempted to climb onto the engine when he reached above to get a handhold on the exhaust fan housing and pull himself up. When he grabbed the fan housing, his fingertips extended into the housing. The turning fan blades amputated one finger and injured another.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The fan was guarded on the outer side; however, it was not protected on the backside. Through inadequate planning, the hazard of the exposed fan blades was overlooked. In addition, a ladder was needed to complete the task of installing the chain hoist, but the mechanic climbed onto equipment instead.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Utilize a Job Safety Analysis (JSA) in an effort to recognize all hazards present. Information on JSAs can be found in the *IADC Accident Prevention Reference Guide*.
- Although employees are usually protected from the hazard of exposed fan blades due to their location, tasks such as installing the chain hoist caused the employee to be exposed to the hazard. The backside of the fan should be guarded to eliminate this hazard exposure.
- Equipment such as the unguarded fan located in close proximity to the task to be undertaken should be locked / tagged out prior to the operation.
- Ladders should be used rather than climbing on equipment.

Think safety first!

Planning will prevent personnel from getting hurt.

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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