



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 12 – 07

BEE STINGS RESULT IN ANAPHYLACTIC REACTION

WHAT HAPPENED:

At two different intervals, two different contractors were stung by bees and experienced allergic reactions while working at two different remote well sites. In the first event the contractor was working alone and drove himself to the hospital. Throughout the drive he was in phone communication with a co-worker, who ensured that he made it to the hospital. This was a serious potential incident because the injured person's face had begun to swell significantly and impaired his vision. It could have impaired his ability to breathe if he had not received treatment when he did. In a second incident, a supervisor drove his employee to the doctor. In this case, the injured person was given Benadryl at the work site which prevented a more serious reaction from occurring during the 1.5 hour drive to seek medical attention. This was a serious potential incident because the allergic reaction might not have been controlled by the Benadryl.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

It seems that engine vibration emanating from compressors, pumps and generators may attract bees.

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

- Instructed field personnel that a Pre-Job Safety Analysis should be conducted for work on/around engines and should include consideration of natural hazards such as bees, wasps and snakes.
- Immediate action should be taken to get injured employees to a hospital ASAP. It may also be appropriate to call for an ambulance to meet the injured employee halfway so that they could administer appropriate treatment sooner.
- Instructed employees with known life-threatening anaphylactic allergies that they should alert their supervisors to their medical condition and should consult a doctor about the advisability of having an Epi-Pen prescription or antihistamine such as Benadryl that they can carry with them on the job.
- Instructed employees who have to work alone that they should maintain regular contact with someone so that their approximate location is known to others at all times. Also, their contact person should be expected to initiate a search if the lone worker does not check in on time.

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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