



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01 – 29

BEYOND SAFETY GLASSES

WHAT HAPPENED:

- Roustabout was scraping/chipping on a BOP unit when a foreign body flew into his eye. He was wearing safety glasses.
- Employee was mixing chemicals with the wind blowing hard and some chemicals blew into his eye. He was wearing safety glasses.
- Floorman was cleaning derrick with rig wash. Some soapy water (chemicals) ran down his forehead into his left eye. He was wearing safety glasses.
- Roustabout was hosing off the shaker screens and mud (chemicals) splashed under his safety glasses into his eye.
- During the first week of a rig construction project, there were 7 eye injuries. The work environment was such that a large amount of particulates were in the air. The injured were all wearing safety glasses.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Everyone mentioned above was wearing their safety glasses, **yet they were not wearing the proper PPE**. Safety glasses were required on the company's drilling locations. However, when chemicals are involved, a lot of particulate or dust, a wash down situation, chipping, etc., then safety glasses may not be enough protection.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address these incidents, this company did the following:

- Supervisors were instructed to analyze activities that may require additional eye protection and "talk with their people" to ensure that employees understand that safety glasses alone are not always adequate eye protection.
- The company recommended that goggles be worn if there is exposure to high wind conditions, particulate (chipping/scraping operations), chemicals (including rig wash, detergent, mixing or painting), air discharge, water under pressure (water hoses or wash down guns), to name a few.
- Rig supervisors were required to check to ensure that they had an adequate supply of goggles and face shields to meet the needs.
- The company recommended that **both** a face shield **and** goggles be used when using a grinder or while mixing mud (chemicals).
- Face shields and goggles in good condition were placed at all workstations such as bench grinders, portable grinders and mud (Chemical) mixing hoppers.
- Supervisors and employees were instructed to ensure that **eye protection is kept clean and in good condition**.

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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