

Fatal Alert

February 19, 2007

An oil drilling company floor hand was fatally injured while cleaning a diesel powered generator. The employee was using a wire brush to clean the steel grating that covered the rear section of the generator. The employee came in contact with an energized electrical cable that powered the radiator fan motor for the diesel engine.

Significant Factors

- Employee was working in an area with unprotected energized electrical parts.
- Lockout procedures were not followed.

Recommendations

- Employees should not work alone in potentially hazardous locations.
- All electrical equipment should be locked-out prior to cleaning/maintenance.
- Ensure LO procedures are maintained/followed.
- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this mishap.
- Employees should constantly assess operations for potential safety hazards.
- Electrical cable/cords need to be inspected on a regular basis. Any cords in poor condition, or missing insulation, or in need of repair, should be replaced or removed from service immediately.
- Conduct safety inspections of all equipment prior to and during use.
- Provide training and education for employees on the OSHA and company rules applicable to their work.