

FATAL Alert

February 21, 2005

A Driller's Helper was fatally injured while removing bolts from the top of a Kelly on a water well drilling rig. The employee was removing the bolts to replace the Kelly swivel packing that had begun to leak. The employee positioned himself behind the drawworks and became entangled in the driveshaft of the rig that powers both the drawworks and the hoist line.

Significant Factors:

- Driveshaft of the rig was left turning/engaged during maintenance work that did not require it to be turning/engaged.
- Employee working in an area that he was not expected or directed to be in to perform the job task.
- Driveshaft not guarded
- No Lockout/Tagout Program or procedures had been established. Employees had not been trained on Lockout/Tagout procedures associated with this rig.
- Employees had not received safety training.
- Employees had not received first aid training and first aid supplies were not provided.

Recommendations:

- Employees should not work in potentially hazardous locations without authorization/knowledge by management. Employees should not work in locations not required to perform the job task.
- All moving, rotating parts should be shut down during maintenance if not required to be operating.
- All moving and rotating parts should be guarded.
- A Lockout/Tagout Program should be developed and implemented with specific procedures for specific tasks associated with the rig.
- Employees should be trained on procedures for energy control during maintenance and normal working procedures and the company's Lockout/Tagout Program.
- Train all employees on the recognition, avoidance and prevention of unsafe conditions.
- Train all employees on the OSHA and company safety rules applicable to this type of work.
- Train all employees on first aid and provide first aid supplies on work locations.