



SAFETY FEEDBACK NOTICE HAND AND FINGER INJURIES



GP

DGEP / SE

Ref: 14 - 2004

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Introduction

Hand and finger injuries continue to occur: from 1/1/03 to 1/6/04 there have been 19 lost time accidents in Total E&P operations. Many of these have had serious consequences like amputation of fingers and thumbs. This SFN raises the profile of hand and finger injuries.

Some Accidents

An Assistant Driller wanted to show the Company Man a valve. He placed his fingers inside the cage where the valve piston moves. The piston moved suddenly to close the valve, trapping his finger. Injury: finger crushed and tip amputated.

Photo shows remains of the man's glove trapped by the piston.



When moving the forks on a backhoe the operator trapped his finger between the lip of the bucket and the forks. Injury: crush, severe laceration and broken finger.

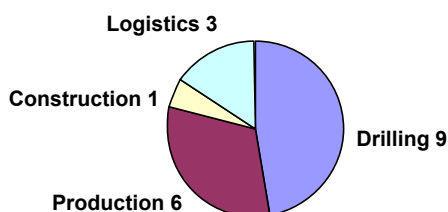
A valve that was blocked open had been removed from the line, but the air-supply controls had not been disconnected and were in the "close" position. When the operator removed the blockage, the valve closed amputating his thumb.

Photo shows the blockage in the valve.



Analysis

Accident by Activity



9 out of 19 (47%) LTI's have occurred during drilling operations.

The 6 Production related LTI's mainly involved maintenance activities.

All the LTI's were to Contractors personnel.



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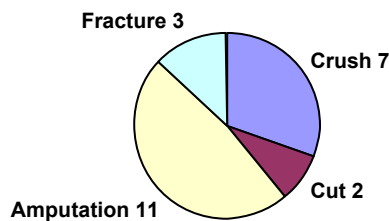
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Type of Injury



A high number of accidents resulting in finger or thumb amputations is apparent (11 out of 19 LTI's, or 58%).

Crush injuries account for 7 out of 19 LTI's.

Accident Causes



A lack of personnel competence and training (36% of accidents) and insufficient risk evaluation + management (31%) are the dominant causes of accidents.

A lack of operational responsibility was a factor in 18% of accidents.

Recommendations

Recommendations to reduce the number of hand and finger injuries are:

- Raise awareness of the problem amongst all personnel. Discuss at pre-job safety meetings, safety committees, safety awareness campaigns etc (a presentation has been sent separately to HSE Managers in affiliates).
- Attention is drawn to the fact that personnel must not to put hands and fingers in positions of danger. Maintain your safety awareness at all times.
- Training of personnel, particularly contractors, must be enforced.
- Ensure risk assessments (Job Safety Analysis) take the risk of hand and finger injuries into account. Make sure precautions specified are followed.
- Ensure that all moving parts of machinery or equipment have guards or other protection.
- The following operations are highlighted as frequent causes of hand and finger accidents:
 - Handling heavy or awkwardly shaped objects – get help or lift mechanically.
 - Handling ropes during marine operations – watch for potential trap points.
 - Working on or near valves – make sure they cannot close on fingers.
 - Manipulating equipment on the drill floor – training, safety awareness and watching out for colleagues.