

SAFETY ALERT

WORKERS HAND CAUGHT BETWEEN SHANK BLOCKS

Safety Alert: #16 - 2010	Release Date: June 28, 2010
Incident Type: Equipment Malfunction	Country and Region: Canada, Alberta

Description of Incident:

- While raising the derrick during rigging up, the top section was scoped up in to position and pinned. The blocks were lowered to the rig floor to remove the scoping lines and cradle from the hook.
- The Floorhand and Motorhand were trying to open the latch arm of the hook to remove the cradle but the latch arm would not stay open. The Driller went to assist the workers open the latch arm. He positioned himself at the backside of the blocks and placed his left hand on top of the backside of the hook in the shank travel area.
Not realizing that the hook was in the open/loaded position; the Driller used his right hand to assist with pushing the hook latch open, when the shank came free of the obstruction it slammed shut crushing his left thumb.

What Caused It:

- Inspection of the block and hook found that the spring housing cap bolts were not in place. This allowed the spring housing cap to shift when the hook was under load. The shifted spring housing cap obstructed the spring retainer plate from its normal travel.
- The spring housing cap shifted into the proper position, when the hook latch was in the process of being opened, which caused the hook shank/retainer plate to travel inside of the housing cap, crushing the worker's thumb between the hook and the lower case.

Corrective Actions:

- The procedure for bridling up and down should include a visual inspection of the hook spring to ensure that it is closed prior to working in close proximity of the blocks.
- Employers need to follow OEM specifications for use and operation of over head equipment.
- Report deficiencies to the OEM for recommendations to prevent reoccurrence.

CONTACT:

For more information on this event, please contact safety@enform.ca

When the block hook spring slammed shut the workers thumb was crushed.



DISCLAIMER:

This Safety Alert is designed to prevent similar incidents by communicating the information at the earliest possible opportunity. Accordingly, the information may change over time. It may be necessary to obtain updates from the source before relying upon the accuracy of the information contained herein. This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers and supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices.