

No job is more important.



Safety Alert
N°10 1997

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT

SURFACE DRILL RIGS PROTECTION FROM ROTATING PARTS

INCIDENT

A worker on an exploration drill site was seriously injured when his clothing became entangled in a rotating drill rod. The man had attempted to pick up some tools from the floor beneath the drill head when his clothes became caught in the rotating rod.

He sustained a broken and dislocated ankle, broken ribs and a fractured cheekbone. He was also completely disrobed apart from a pair of under-pants and a boot.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- No guarding for the rotating drill rods.
- Carrying out other repairs in close proximity to the rotating drill rods.
- Cramped working conditions.



The worker's clothes wrapped around the drill rod

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Workplace Standards Authority recommends that:

- suitable guarding be developed for all rotating parts on drill rigs (Refer to Australian Standard AS4024.1 – 1996, *Safeguarding of Machinery*).
- procedures be put in place to remove operators from areas near the rig where they are likely to become caught by rotating parts.
- all other work that is not related directly to drilling be performed remote from the drill.
- attention is also drawn to the duty of care of employers, employees, manufacturers and suppliers under the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995*.

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Steve Hyam, Chief Inspector
Workplace Standards Authority
5 December 1997