

SAFETY ALERT - #60-2006
TOWING INCIDENT INVOLVING THE USE OF CHAINS
RELEASE DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2006

Function: Drilling	Incident Date: December 14, 2006
Location: Onshore	Location Detail: Drilling camp
Incident Type: Injury	Country and Region: Canada, NE Alberta

Description of Incident:

A front-end loader was attempting to move a "Wet Sleeper" skid trailer on location at one of our camps. The front-end of the loader was hooked up to the skid trailer by a 3/8 in. chain. The loader operator began backing up to begin the pull. As tension increased on the chain, one link parted, and the broken section of chain attached to the loader shot through the windows of the cab. The loader operator ducked to the right and only suffered minor injuries, glass cuts to his face.



Front of loader



Back of loader

Root Causes:

- Campsite was not large enough for trucks to position skid trailers in proper location.
- Work was being done by contractors outside of the supervision of the prime contractor.
- Company towing guideline not referenced.
- Contractor workers did not conduct a Job Hazard Assessment (JHA).
- Equipment used was not fit for task (i.e., loader was not designed for pulling heavy loads and chain should not have been used for towing operations).

Recommendations:

- **ONLY USE PROPER EQUIPMENT FOR TOWING.** Do not use chains.
- Make clearing for camp and lease sites large enough so that trucks can position loads in proper position. If this is not possible, insure proper equipment is on site to position loads.
- Follow prime contractors and companies, policy, procedures, and guidelines in all towing operations.
- Conduct a full and thorough (JHA) with all parties prior to the commencement of towing operation.



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