

LOADING AND MOVING SHALE BINS

ARE YOU MANAGING THE RISKS?

SAFETY BULLETIN

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Unacceptable risk resulting from shale bins being loaded when overweight

Shale bins are used on drilling rig sites to collect drill cuttings. Shale bins can be light-weight or heavier metal bins with three or four sides. Three-sided bins are emptied with a front-end loader that partially drives into the bin, while four-sided bins are emptied with a track-hoe.

Shale bins may be one of the last pieces of equipment to be moved during a rig move. As a result, they can sometimes be used as a convenient storage area for equipment such as centrifuges or loose items. Shale bin anchor points (ears) are designed for “self weight” purposes only and more weight from equipment or materials can lead to failure. Additionally, shale bins do not have attachment points for cargo securement.

POTENTIAL RISKS

The following potential risks may exist in relation to shale bin moving and loading activities:

- Damage to the shale bin, winch cable or transport truck
- Damage or injury to workers or members of the public from dislodged unsecured cargo
- Line of fire risks to workers if the winch cable and gear breaks, or if a worker is in-between the bin and any other equipment when it may move such as a three-sided bin being entered by a front-end loader

WHAT CAN SUPERVISORS DO?

- Ensure that the rig moving plan includes the proper loading, securement and transport of equipment and loose items
- Ensure that shale bins are used in the manner for which they were designed and according to manufacturer's specification, not as equipment storage and transport devices
- Ensure load lifting dimensions and weights are clear and visible for equipment to be lifted or loaded
- Assess potential line of fire hazards of equipment being moved and transported and document in a hazard assessment
- Position and secure shale bins so that if a front-end loader is used, a line of fire hazard does not exist
- Clean shale and other bins of waste prior to being loaded and moved
- Pause the task and re-assess if unsafe activities are observed or identified by site personnel

WHAT CAN WORKERS DO?

- Identify and share hazards with workers and supervisors on the worksite
- Know and adhere to the rig moving plan
- Verify load weights are within lifting specifications
- Ensure that you are not in the line of fire when near moving equipment or when loading activities are underway
- Understand what equipment needs to be stored together and transported as a single load
- Know and adhere to load securement practices
- Intervene when you or someone else is asked to load a shale bin that cannot be conducted safely and exercise your right to refuse unsafe work, when necessary

PRESENT LIKE A PRO

Before you begin:

Review this material, make sure you understand it and how the topic can be applied.

Research your own company's experience so you can provide examples that pertain to your work areas.

Anticipate questions and be prepared to answer/discuss them.

If you're not able to answer a question, let the person know you will find the information and make sure you follow up.

Consider the audience and their experience with the topic (i.e. how familiar are they with the topic or the terms being used?).

Challenge the group:

Do you know the empty weight of the shale bin on your worksite?

Ask the group if they have observed workers in the line of fire during shale bin loading and unloading.

Discuss and share stories of shale bin moving and associated risks on your worksite.

Challenge the group to find solutions to loose equipment storage during rig moves.