



SAFETY ALERT

WORKER FATALLY INJURED DURING PUMPJACK MAINTENANCE

Safety Alert: #20 - 2010	RELEASE DATE: JUNE 10, 2010
Incident Type: Fatality	Country and Region: Canada, Alberta

Description of Incident:

- While completing maintenance on a pumpjack, a contractor was killed when the arm of the counter weights struck the worker on the side of the head.
- A contract oilfield maintenance company was hired by the operator to install insulation around the pumpjack header system and fuel gas line. The insulation was to be installed on the piping prior to winter freezing.
- The fuel gas line that was to be insulated was positioned below the pumpjack base. The pumpjack was elevated above ground level due to ground elevation issues and wellhead placement.
- During the installation, the worker entered the danger zone and was struck on the head by the pumpjack counter weight arm.

Corrective Actions:

- Maintenance must not be performed on moving equipment.
- Pumpjacks must be properly shut down and locked out prior to any maintenance operations that occur on a pumpjack or in close proximity to the pumpjack.
- During any maintenance or hazardous tasks being completed by workers, all hazards need to be addressed and properly eliminated or controlled.
- Recommended equipment modifications (Engineering Controls) - Pumpjacks that are elevated in the field must have additional guarding installed on them to prevent workers from entering the zone where the weights swing.
- In the case of elevated pumpjacks, the guarding must be positioned so that no worker can access the zone from below.

All companies must ensure there are procedures for locking out and securing energy sources and these procedures are communicated to all applicable workers. Companies may wish to check all pumpjacks and ensure that not only side guards are in place but that guarding is adequate if pumpjack is elevated and therefore provides opportunity for access from below.

Contact:

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

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