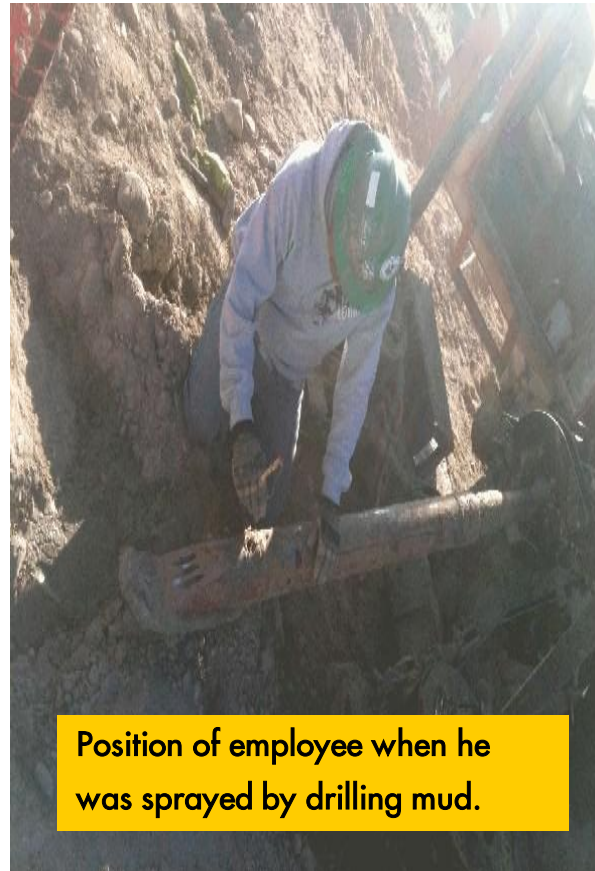


Shell EPW NA Onshore Projects - HSE Learning Bulletin

Fountain IMPACT No: 552349 - Location: Pinedale, WY ROW Date: 8-20-2010

Risk Ranking: Actual: P1, A0, E0, R0 : Potential: P3B, A0, E0, R0B

MTC-EMPLOYEE SPRAYED IN EYES WITH DRILLING MUD. While performing a boring operation the boring bit became clogged. The Employee began to attempt to unplug the bit resorting to trying to break the debris plug with a wire. Upon breaking the debris plug, trapped pressure behind the debris released pushing the drilling mud out of the hole spraying the employee in the face and eyes. The contractor's eyes were washed out on location and the employee was transported for medical treatment.



- Preliminary Learning Points
- JSA and Safe Work Permit had been completed for the boring operation.
 - No JSA was written for unclogging the bit.
- Work Crew had been fighting a partially clogged bit for most of the day.
- The bit had been used on a previous job and had not been cleaned prior to being used on this job.
- On previous occasions where the bit was unclogged, the driller had backed the bit off, allowing pressure to bleed off.
- On this occasion the driller opened a release valve mistakenly believing that he had bled the pressure off the pipe.
 - The release valve bled pressure from the pump system not the pipe.
- The driller began dismantling the bit with a face shield on, once the bolt was out of the bit he mistakenly believed there could be no pressure in the pipe and removed the face shield.
- The company has no procedure on how to clean out a clogged bit.

