

SAFETY ALERT



SERIOUS ACCIDENT INVOLVING A DRILL RIG

INCIDENT

A UDR 650 drill rig was being used when the driller stepped backwards and tripped over an overshot rod. He then fell to the ground and sustained a dislocated shoulder.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The overshot rod is a steel rod with a wire rope attached leading to the mast. As drilling took place, this rod was left in a position which caused it to lean on a 45 degree angle away from the side of the rig, creating a trip hazard.

As drilling operations were taking place, water suddenly came gushing out of the drill hole. The driller reacted quickly and stepped backwards, tripping over the overshot rod.

INVESTIGATION

After this accident occurred, it was decided to place a steel hook on the side of the drill rig for securing the overshot rod. Operators are instructed to place the overshot rod into this hook each time the rod is placed to one side.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Ensure that operators maintain a workplace free from trip hazards.
- Ensure that trip hazards are identified at work sites and controlled effectively.
- A hook be placed on drill rigs which use overshot rods, so that these rods can be kept away from the workplace area and prevented from being a trip hazard.
- Ensure that procedures for using this hook are highlighted when training operators.
- To reduce the level of risk of the hook becoming a hazard:
 - locate the hook about one metre from the ground at the back corner of the rig, facing the back of the rig and not face it down the side of the rig,
 - ensure the hook is rounded and does not have a sharp edge,
 - paint the hook yellow or white for it to be very visible.

Contact: Mark Stephens, Regional Inspector of Mines, Orange NSW (02) 6360-8289.

G. TERREY

DIRECTOR, MINE SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT