

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Safety & Occupational Health Office**

Lessons Learned

ACCIDENT: Struck by drill rod

Date: 13 Dec 2002

WHAT HAPPENED: Drill operator was attempting to thread on a 10 ft. section of rod while helper held onto the bottom portion of hoisting device. As the operator lowered drill head, the threads did not line up causing pressure on the drill rod. The rod bent outwardly causing the section to move sharply and knocking him into the rack of stored drill rods.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Failure to control equipment.
- Failure to maintain a safe clearance around drill rig
- Inexperienced helper.

RESULTS: Fractured right forearm and received a cut, which required stitches.

LESSONS LEARNED:

Reference- EM 385-1-1, USACE SAFETY & HEALTH Requirements Manual

- **Employees need to be trained and authorized to operate any equipment prior to the start of work.**
 - 16.M.04 Training.
 - a. All members of drilling crews shall be trained in:
 - (1) The operation, inspection, and maintenance of the equipment,
 - (2) The safety features and procedures to be used during operation, inspection, and maintenance of the equipment,
 - b. This training will be based on the equipment operating manual and the hazard analysis for the activity.
 - 16.M.09 Equipment operation
 - d. The operator shall verbally alert employees and visually ensure employees are clear from dangerous parts of equipment before starting or engaging equipment.