



Safety Alert #65

Tyre Handler Failure resulting in Fatality

Incident Description

It was reported that a tyre-handler was being used to hold an earthmover tyre during inflation. The tyre handler failed, resulting in one of the handler arm extensions detaching from the main arm. The arm and the tyre being held fell causing fatal injuries to an assistant.

Findings

1. It was reported that at least one person was standing between the handler and the tyre (or close by) during the inflation process.
2. It appeared as though the bolts attaching the handler arms to the extensions had either not been tensioned; had failed; or some had previously fallen out.

Recommendations

1. Klinge site managers are to ensure that tyre service personnel adhere strictly to approved SWPs and JHA during tyre inflation and tyre handling activity.
2. Ensure that the tyre handler is NOT used to hold the tyre during the inflation process.
3. Ensure that personnel remain clear of the tyre and potential trajectory path during inflation, and that the practice of "Remote Inflation" is implemented using an extension air line of at least 3m in length.
4. As part of a thorough (written) monthly tyre handler inspection, ensure that structural bolts on tyre handler arms are inspected and checked. Refer WI-SH-03.
5. Ensure that structural bolts on tyre handler arms are replaced at OEM-specified intervals, or annually (which ever is less).
6. Ensure that acknowledgement forms are completed for this Safety Alert, and that the acknowledgement forms are retained on-site on-file. This Safety Alert is to remain posted on your Safety Notice Board until October 31st 2008.

Eliminate All Unsafe Acts & Conditions.

Davin Faux, Manager – Global Risk & Business Improvement
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