**SAFETY ALERT**

**Walk Surface Review**

*No. 2013-06-20*

**Date:** Thursday, June 20, 2013

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**Subject:** Safety Alert; Review methods for securing walk surfaces on portable equipment

The following incident occurred on an Apache facility. There were no serious injuries or spills associated with this incident. However, serious consequences could have resulted. Please review this Safety Alert carefully and take necessary precautions as outlined below to help avoid this type of incident in the future.

**Incident**
A worker was helping to remove a gas buster from the top of a 100 bbl portable blending tank. While walking on the top grating deck of the tank, a piece of grating “teetered” and allowed the worker and the grating to fall into the tank (approx. 8 feet).

**Contributing Factors**
- Grating clips became loose and fell out of place. (see photo)
- Some grating end points were found to lack proper supportive structure.
- Structure of tank lacked method to prevent grating from sliding out of place. (see photo)

![Image of grating clips and tank](image-url)
Corrective Actions by Tank Provider

- Structural support added at all grating end points.
- Structural components added to prevent grating from sliding. (see photo)
- Evaluation process implemented to identify design hazards.

Preventive Actions

- Site supervisors should evaluate all personnel working/access surfaces. **This should be done for all rental equipment, Apache owned equipment and for the Apache facility.** When possible, grating clips should not be the only means for securing grating. All pieces of grating should be secured from sliding out of place by structural mechanisms.
- In instances where clips will be used, ensure the proper type/size for the application are installed and maintained per the manufacturer’s recommendation.
- Depending on the application, it may be helpful to paint grating clips and/or surrounding areas to make it easier to identify missing clips (Loctite on threads or using studs instead of bolts can also be considered).
- Grating clips should be checked regularly to ensure they have not become loose.
- Review grating spans to verify that existing supports are adequate for the maximum load they may be subjected to. Add additional supports under grating where necessary.

- **Companies providing rental equipment should take a proactive approach toward identifying hazards on their equipment. Any hazards that are identified should be shared with Apache so that it can be communicated to everyone affected. (Apache will make every effort to present the information in a constructive manner. Persons/Companies submitting the hazard identifications will remain anonymous.)**

- This alert shall be incorporated in the next safety meeting at all Apache facilities to increase personnel awareness. All personnel who work with rental equipment providers must notify them of this Alert and ensure that the necessary corrective/preventive actions are taken.
**Summary of Findings**
This incident highlights the need for rental providers to analyze their equipment for personnel hazards. A proactive approach should be taken toward ensuring the safety of personnel working on or around this equipment. Apache personnel and/or Consultants share the responsibility for reviewing all equipment and facilities for potential hazards. Any hazards that are identified should be included in the associated JSA. Any hazard that can’t be adequately addressed in the JSA process should be brought to the attention of Apache for further review.

**Example of Proactive Identification**
The photo below shows an example of a design change resulting from hazard identification. The tank owner identified that a cage was necessary to prevent a potential fall from heights when accessing the top of the tank. The tank owner took action by designing a cage to correct the issue. Since this information was shared with Apache, we are able to share it with everyone to raise awareness of the issue. (see photo)