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# Exploration and Driller Safety

**Minerals North Conference**

**April 18, 2008**

## Obligations of the Mines Manager

- **1.6.9 Health and Safety Program**
- **1.9.1 Workplace Conditions**
- **1.11.1 / 11.2 Training and Training Records obligation**
- **Section 3 Personnel Safety**
- **Implications of Bill C-45 , criminal prosecution for negligence**

## Safety Programs



- **300,000 person flights**
- **50 Million pounds of freight flown**
- **Excess of 500,000 man hours**
- **No lost time**

# Remote Access Drill Sites



- Helicopter Safety
- Emergency preparedness plan
- Shelter
- Evacuation Plan



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## Remote Access Drill Sites



- Safety railing
- Injury Treatment and transport
- Appropriate First Aid equipment
- Consideration of weather restriction
- Flight access

# Drilling Safety



- **Un-guarded Drill stem**
- **December 2006 worker injury pant caught in rotating drill**
- **Near fatal**

# Bad morning



- **Winter 2007**
- **Welding incident resulting in fire and loss of drill**
- **Failure to monitor after welding**
- **Potential for worker injury**
- **Economic loss of equipment and down time**

# Drill Stem Guarding



- Application of vent tube
- Cheap
- Effective
- Easily replaced
- Complies with Code

## Different style of guard



- Incomplete guarding
- Code contravention
- Expensive
- Hard to work with

## Style of guard for rods



- Effective
- Visible
- Hard to work with
- Easily lost

# Fall Protection System



- No visible fall protection on drill mast
- Obligation to provide safe work conditions

# One style of fall protection system



- Fall protection installed (1)
- Cannot access from drill deck
- Code non-compliance
- Recovery of injured worker
- Equipment requirements (harness, training ?)

## Fatal fall from a height

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2008 a colleague observed the erection of a tower crane. Noticing the lack of common sense on site, he approached the supervisor. The response was as follows "NO PROBLEM" - they are experts and have been doing the same for many years in the UAE.

Coincidentally he took some pictures and at the end of the day there was a fatality.

Sometimes all of us need a wake up call to remind us, that over confidence due to the repetitive nature of the job and 'experience' overseeing safety procedures and precautions can lead to FATAL results.

Please pass on to work colleagues and contractors alike.



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- **1.10.1 Right to Refuse Unsafe Work**



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Result

## Hours of Work

- **1.5.1 Hours of Employment**
- **Applies to the exploration industry**
- **Exemption to “Hours” through Chief Inspector Variance**
- **Manager must apply under 1.2.1 for variance**
- **Must address “fatigue mitigation”.**
- **Requires Mitigation Plan**