

Care using hand tools

Safety Flash Published on 1 August 2003 Generated on 12 January 2025 IMCA SF 09/03

A recent incident has been reported to IMCA. Whilst we do not have details of injuries or damage, it involved a fairly standard operation in the engine room

What happened?

An engineer was busy drilling holes in a pumping casing, using a high-powered drill machine, which he was using a rope to suspend and then holding by himself.

Causes given in the incident report were:

- A drill too powerful to be operated by a single person
- Limited space to operate
- Poor communication between engineer and his helper

Corrective action prescribed by the company to all of its vessels is:

- Heavy hand tools to be operated by at least two operators or other measures to be taken to make their use safer
- Choose the type of tool to match the job that needs to be done
- If necessary carry out a job safety analysis and do a toolbox talk before starting a job.

IMCA Safety Flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing lessons to be more easily learnt for the benefit of the entire offshore industry.

The effectiveness of the IMCA Safety Flash system depends on the industry sharing information and so avoiding repeat incidents. Incidents are classified according to IOGP's Life Saving Rules.

All information is anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate, and warnings for graphic content included where possible.

IMCA makes every effort to ensure both the accuracy and reliability of the information shared, but is not be liable for any guidance and/or recommendation and/or statement herein contained.

The information contained in this document does not fulfil or replace any individual's or Member's legal, regulatory or other duties or obligations in respect of their operations. Individuals and Members remain solely responsible for the safe, lawful and proper conduct of their operations.

Share your safety incidents with [IMCA online](#). Sign-up to receive Safety Flashes [straight to your email](#).