

COS SAFETY SHARE

WHAT WILL WE DO TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING HERE?

WORKER IN A PICKLE (Confined Space)

What happened?

The lift boat had just completed spotting a cement plug on the well and were removing knock-ups from casing and tubing outlets. During this time a contract worker was tasked with cleaning a cement mixer with a low-pressure water hose. As he was spraying down the inside of the mixer from the hatch position, he noticed water was not draining from the vessel due to blockage in the drain. He then proceeded to climb into the open top mixer, with the power unit still connected and running, in an attempt to remove the blockage. After dislodging the material from the bottom of the mixer, the blade assembly was freed and began to rotate. This caused the hose to become entangled in the mixing blades, preventing the worker from exiting the vessel. The worker began shouting for help and nearby personnel immediately shut down the engine and helped to remove the worker. No injuries resulted from the incident.

What went wrong?

The worker climbed into the open top mixer, with the power unit still connected and running, in an attempt to remove the blockage.

Why did it happen?

The contract worker was a short-service employee (SSE) with limited experience, and he failed to recognize the immediate hazards.

Direct supervision was not present at the time of the event.

There were no observable warning signs to Confined Space Hazards.

What areas were identified for improvement?

The Permit-to-Work has been modified to include open top tank entry.

Signage is being installed on all open-top tanks including cement mixers.

Notification of the incident and lessons learned was shared with all field personnel.

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