

RED ALERT

Fuel Tank Lid Causes Head Wound

May 2019



Situation:

In between skid shifts a fuel tank had been placed on the ground in an uneven position. The tank was refilled by the fuel tanker and the crew's loader driver came to relocate the tank onto the new skid. The operator got out of the loader cab, not wearing a hard hat, and tried to pull the lid down to enable him to transport it with the loader. Because the tank had been placed on uneven ground the lid wouldn't close easily. Using more force to close the lid, one of the struts failed and the whole lid fell down onto the operator's forehead causing a deep laceration. The operator was given initial first aid and had to leave the work site to receive medical attention.

Learnings:

The incident was a result of several things coming together at once: the crew were midway between shifting to a new skid. The road and skid was congested with machines and transporters. The tanker arrived to refill the fuel tank while the crew were moving. The loader operator wanted to get the tanker filled quickly and then moved to the next skid. This resulted in shortcuts – the tank was placed on uneven ground so it could be quickly refuelled. The operator did not stop to put on their hard hat. They were rushing to close the lid and forced the mechanism to fail. Often accidents occur when a number of factors come together – rushing often leads to mistakes.

Controls:

- Wear your hard hat in **all** operational areas
- Ensure fuel tanks are always located on flat ground
- Don't rush – take time and plan.