



Safety Alert

To: All Crews and Offices

From: HSE Department

Date: 5/2/2005

Shooter's Helper Fatality

This preliminary report is subject to a final independent investigation.

A Trace Energy Services Shooter's Helper was fatality injured while on the jobsite near Granberry, Texas on April 14, 2005.

Description:

During operations on a seismic project, a shooter and his helper were detonating 2.5 lb charges loaded at a depth of 20 feet. The drill log of the shot hole in question indicated that the hole was drilled to depth, loaded and plugged correctly. Conditions at the shot point while the charge was being prepped for detonation were normal. The shot hole was detonated with out delay and recorded by the central unit at time zero. The shot hole did not blow out at the time of detonation and the Shooter's Helper walked to the shot point from a distance of approximately 100 feet to clip the leads. At the moment the Shooter's Helper leaned over the hole to cut the leads, the shot hole blew out and hit the Shooter's Helper in his chest area, killing him instantly. The delay between detonation and the subsequent blow out is estimated to be in excess of 30 seconds.

Recommendations:

- Always exercise extreme caution when approaching a shot hole.
- Never expose any part of the body above the shot hole. (during hook-up, checking leads, or clean-up)
- The delay between detonation and approaching the shot hole must be extended to compensate for a delayed blow out. (A detailed safe work procedure will be issued on completion of the investigation.)
- Inform all personnel of the possibility of a delayed blow out and take the appropriate precautions.
- Inform all personnel that work near shot holes, that they should never expose any part of their body directly above the shot hole.
- This alert has been communicated to all personnel at Trace Energy Services and also presented to the IAGC and the CAGC.