



Shell & Auger Rig: Generic Risk Assessment

Risks

1. Drilling set up and operation.
2. Below ground/above ground services, such as gas pipes and electric cables (below ground and overhead)
3. Falling, swinging tools
4. Explosion/combustion
5. Contaminated soil or water
6. Excavations
7. Trips, slips and falls
8. Heavy weights both on and off the drilling rig.
9. Noise
10. Traffic: our own vehicle(s) and other vehicles.
11. Poor access
12. Struck by plant
13. Chemicals
14. Electricity
15. Re-fuelling rig engine
16. Materials such as cement , diesel or petrol and bentonite

Those Affected

1. All operatives
2. Others in the vicinity

Safe System

1. All operatives to be fully trained in the safe use of the rig.
2. Close consultation with client prior to carrying out the work is essential to ascertain the nature and location of hazards on site. CAT to be used by site engineer/client prior to commencement of drilling. Follow instructions of the site engineer who will also have service drawings. He/she will set you up on the boreholes.
3. Hand dug trial pits **MUST** be made prior to the commencement of mechanical operations. **Drilling work cannot commence until an inspection pit is dug for each borehole.** Pick axes are **NOT** permitted.
The only exception to this rule is if a client specifically tells you not to dig an inspection pit based on his/her professional judgement and is prepared to sign our company 'Trial Pit' form thus accepting full responsibility if underground services are hit. If the form is not signed then a trial pit must be dug.
A constant supply of these forms must be kept in each vehicle. They are available from both the yard and the office. It is the responsibility of each drilling crew to ensure you always have plenty of forms.
4. Backfill trial pit immediately on completion of each inspection pit.
5. Ensure stand pipe covers are at ground level and thus not causing a trip hazard.

6. Rigs must be kept a minimum of 9 metres from overhead cables on wooden posts and 15 metres from cables on metal posts.
7. Do **NOT** load equipment on the rig prior to dropping the rig as this is a dangerous practice and could lead to a serious accident. Instead you must split up all the equipment so that they are not as heavy to lift. (see 'Manual Handling' in H&S Policy). Adhere to NVQ training and thus work in a safe manner at all times.
8. At no time must the drilling tools be suspended in the air whilst work is carried out beneath them.
9. Personal hygiene/washing. Wash hands prior to eating, drinking or smoking.
10. First Aid Kit to be maintained on site to treat breaks in the skin or any other minor injuries.
11. Most employees are Appointed First Aiders
12. Use of correct PPE at **ALL** times even when the drilling rig is not actually in operation.
13. Keep equipment orderly and in set places.
14. Report any defective or unsafe tools and equipment immediately and stop work until the problem is rectified.
15. Smoking is not allowed on site
16. Keep vehicle movement to a minimum and use agreed access route.
17. Awareness of manual handling techniques. Share loads, avoid twisting and use best lifting practice.
18. Switch off rig engine and allow cooling prior to re-fuelling. Do not smoke and use correct fuel containers only
19. If the skin does come into contact with materials such as cement, diesel or petrol or bentonite, then wash hands and forearms with soap and water in order to prevent the risk of burns or dermatitis. Ensure cuts are cleaned and covered. However, this should not occur as rubber gloves should be worn.
20. Always inspect the rig prior to working.
21. Attend site inductions whenever appropriate to the job.
22. Use of experienced competent drillers, NVQ trained.
23. Staff to all be familiar with and comply with The Health & Safety (Safety Signs & Signals) Regulations 1996 which are generally as follows:
 - a) WARNING SIGNS are yellow signs with black lettering
 - b) MANDATORY (MUST DO) SIGNS are blue signs with white lettering
 - c) EMERGENCY/DANGER STATE SIGNS are red signs with white lettering
 - d) SAFE STATE SIGNS are green signs with white lettering
 Each contains a pictogram which indicates purpose, describes the action or indicates direction.
24. Provision of barriers to prevent public access by client/engineer when needed.
25. Ensure others in work area are aware of your presence
26. Stay away from identified hazard areas
27. All rigs to be inspected on an annual basis in compliance with PUWER 1998.
28. All wire ropes to be inspected every 6 months in compliance with LOLER 1998.

Training Requirements

Operatives to be trained and supervised for an initial period until they are completely familiar with the operation of the rig and the essential safety procedures. It is our aim that all staff, especially lead drillers, will be NVQ Level 2 trained as soon as is reasonably practical.

Special attention should be paid to the digging of trial pits to at least 1.2 metres, the correct use of machinery guarding and the correct use of P.P.E.

Subsequently, spot checks will be made on site by Paul Blackledge, the Managing Director, to check that all safety procedures are being observed with refresher training if necessary.

Further Action

None identified.

Review completed by: Nicola Blackledge and Paul Blackledge

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