

# Drum Handling Safety

- ▶ In many our facilities there are time when it is necessary to move full drums of product by hand.
- ▶ Like many activities manual drum handling is an activity that can be performed safely, provided you are aware of the risks involved & how to avoid them.
- ▶ This guidance note is intended to take the knowledge of our experienced operators in how to safely manually handle full drums & share this with current & future employees who need to handle full drums.
- ▶ Through this improved understanding & knowledge we can reduce the incidence of hand injuries ~ traditionally a frequent cause of injury & lost time.

# What are the hazards?



- ▶ **A full drum weighs about 200Kg (440 lbs).**
  - This is 2~3 times the weight of the person who has to move the drum.
  - From weightlifting the world record for the heaviest snatch of all time, 216kg, is owned by [Antonio Krastev](#) of Bulgaria
- ▶ **Lose control of a drum you will not have the strength to recover it.**
- ▶ **If you hand becomes trapped between a falling drum and another drum or obstacle serious injury can result. A 200Kg drum will cut off a finger**
- ▶ **If a drum falls it can land on your foot or leg & cause serious injury.**



# However

- ▶ With the correct equipment & skills & preparation many Chevron employees have been handling drums safely & without incident for many years.
- ▶ You can follow their lead by learning & applying the basic principles detailed in this short training presentation

# Step 1 ~ Preparation



- ▶ Before moving a drum:
  1. **Make sure the area you are working in is clear**
    - No trip hazards
    - Loose material
  2. **Have the correct PPE**
    - Leather gloves
    - Steel capped shoes or boots
    - A leather apron
  3. **Co-workers:**
    - Be aware of other co-workers in the same area.
    - Agree who is moving when & where
    - Communicate

# What is the correct PPE ?



## Shoes or boots:

- Steel toe caps
- Non-slip soles
- Securely tied or fastened



## Gloves.

- Sturdy leather gloves
- In good condition ~ no holes or rips

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- ▶ It is desirable to wear a leather apron if the drum is hot.
  - ▶ ***PPE is not optional*** ~ it is there to protect you from injury if something goes wrong.
  - ▶ ***But*** the best defense is to avoid the incident ~ so on the next slides we get guidance on drum handling

# Step 2 ~ Warm up & stretch



- ▶ Before starting warm up & stretch especially:
  1. Back
  2. Arm
  3. Core muscles
  
- ▶ **Flexion Stand:** with your hands clasped over your head and extend them up as far as possible. Hold for 5 seconds and repeat 5 times.
  
- ▶ **Extension Stand:** with your hands clasped behind your back and extend your arms as far back as possible. Hold for 5 seconds and repeat 5 times.

# Step 3 ~ Pick a drum



- ▶ First movement is to lift the drum onto it's edge:
- 1. Make sure the top of the drum is clean & can be gripped ~ no oil
- 2. Place one hand at the top of the drum which will be the highest point
- 3. Place the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand at the side this provides maximum control
- 4. Secure the base of the drum by placing your foot up against the edge
- 5. Then pull the drum smoothly to a balance point

# Step 4 ~ Practice letting go

- ▶ If it starts to go wrong *always* protect the person:
  - ▶ **Let go of the drum**
    - ▶ A drum can be replaced – a finger cannot
  
- ▶ So the first time you move a drum:
  1. Learn ~ If in doubt ~ let go
  2. Practice dropping the drum back onto it's base
    - Push the drum slightly away from you
    - Lift hands clear ~ lift to your head height
    - Step slowly backwards

# Moving the Drum



- ▶ Rolling the drum allows you to move it towards the position you want to place it. Make sure:
  1. The area & ground is clear of obstacles
  2. Roll the drum through your hands like a steering wheel.
  3. Always keep 1 hand close to the top ~ this provides control to stop the drum falling forwards or backwards



# Step 6 ~ Positioning the drum

## 1 / 2



- ▶ This is the most hazardous stage especially if you are positioning close to other drums, walls etc.
- 1. Always make sure you hands & body are not positioned between the drum and other objects
- 2. Move the drum close to where you want it's final place to be. Don't try to place in exactly
- 3. Support the base with your foot
- 4. Slide
- 5. Slowly
- 6. Final

# Step 6 ~ Positioning the drum

## 2/2



- ▶ This is the most hazardous stage especially if you are positioning close to other drums or walls etc.
- 1. Always
- 2. Move
- 3. Support
- 4. Slide your hands away from the top. Either to the sides or lower edge
- 5. Slowly push the drum away from you so it falls into place
- 6. Finally locate the drum by pushing into place with the drum flat on the ground or pallet and hands clear of other drums

# Comments, Questions

- ▶ Share your comments & questions.
- ▶ Who are the most experienced & safest drum handlers at your facility?
- ▶ How can you share your knowledge & experience with your colleagues & any new employees?