



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 09 – 29

IMPROPER USE OF DRILL PIPE SPINNER RESULTS IN AN MTO

WHAT HAPPENED:

A powered drill pipe spinner and chain tong were being used to make a connection of 5" DP in the mouse hole. The drilling crew placed the drill pipe spinner on the lower joint of 5" drill pipe and a back up chain tong on upper joint and got ready to make up the connection. When an employee inadvertently energized the spinner, the other employee, who was holding the backup chain tong, lost his grip on the chain tong allowing it to swing toward the power spinner operator, hitting him on the left ear and temporal region.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Crew was using the power spinner and chain tong incorrectly.
2. Line Supervisor and the crew failed to recognize the hazard.
3. Failure to follow standard operating procedure.
4. Failure to conduct a proper JSA prior to the job.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

1. The drilling crew developed a new JSA for this task indicating the correct working practices. This JSA states not to use the chain tong for this job. Instead, use rig tongs to hold the lower joints when using the power spinner.
2. The rig crew was instructed that the power drill pipe spinner should always be used on the upper joint.
3. Supervisors held meetings with all drill crews and discussed what went wrong in this accident. They included an explanation of the safe work practices to do this job.
4. Immediate Supervisors were reminded that they are responsible to oversee safe work conditions for employees.

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices

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