



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

---

ALERT 99-08

## AIR HOIST SAFETY

### WHAT HAPPENED:

A handling sub was being lifted from its storage area on the rig floor next to the handrails. The air hoist chain had been attached to the sub. The injured employee placed his hand on top the sub. The air hoist operator thought he heard someone say "pick-up" and started lifting the sub. The employee's hand was caught between the sub and the handrail. The injury resulted in two broken fingers.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The air hoist operator started lifting without checking to confirm that everyone was ready for him to lift the sub.
2. The injured employee placed his hands in a hazardous position.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Always ensure a clear line of communication between the air hoist operator and the person or persons attaching the lifting line.
2. When attaching or guiding a load being lifted, beware of pinch points. Use a tag line whenever possible.

---

**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.  
Copyright © 1999 International Association of Drilling Contractors. All Rights Reserved

Issued February 1999