



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 99-13

## USING EQUIPMENT UNDER PRESSURE

### WHAT HAPPENED:

Two persons were injured while using a hydraulic torque tool to break out bonnet bolts on BOP's. The tool was working at maximum pressure (10,000 psi) when an attempt was made to achieve extra force by hitting the tool with a sledgehammer. The tool failed and the stored energy was suddenly released as the tool and broken parts flew off, striking one person on the hand, arm, face and neck.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Personnel misused a hammer by using it to strike another tool under pressure.
2. Failure to exercise proper care when using equipment under pressure.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

In all cases where personnel are exposed to hazards associated with operating equipment under pressure, it is suggested that the following factors be required to be taken into consideration.

1. Equipment under pressure should be operated only by personnel who have received adequate training and instruction in the safe use of such equipment.
2. Personnel should be familiar with the manufacturer's operating instructions and precautions and observe these at all times.
3. All activities involving equipment under pressure must be effectively supervised and controlled.

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**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.**

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