



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 99-37

CASING TONG SUPPORT SPRING FAILURE

WHAT HAPPENED:

A joint of 7" (17.5 cm) casing was being made up. The casing tongs were initially in high gear and were being shifted into low gear to finish up the makeup. When the tongs were shifted the support spring rod parted. The tong dies were made up and the tongs were supported by the casing string, and did not fall to the floor.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Due to the engineering of the support spring the support spring is difficult to inspect.
2. The amount of wear on the spring is not known.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Support springs will be inspected every 6 months.
2. A safety cable will be installed to support the tongs in case of a spring failure in the future.

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 December 1999