



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 00-38

## LACK OF COMMUNICATION CAUSES LOSS OF FINGERS

### WHAT HAPPENED:

The drilling crew had completed pulling the drill string out of the hole. The crew decided to service the rig while out of the hole. The derrickman went up to the crown to grease it. The driller saw the derrickman coming down the derrick ladder having finished the job of greasing the crown sheaves, so he instructed the floormen to grease the traveling blocks. One of the floormen put on the necessary safety equipment and attached himself to the man-rider winch line. The other floorman began lifting him to service the blocks.

During the time that the floormen were getting prepared to grease the traveling block, the derrickman stopped on his way down to grease the air hoist sheave. No one noticed what he was doing or where he was located. In an attempt to get access to the grease fittings, the derrickman grabbed the sheave with his left hand and began to spin the sheave around. At that same moment the floorman began operating the air hoist. The derrickman's left hand was pulled into the sheave. In an attempt to free his left hand, the derrickman grabbed the wire rope with his right hand. Both hands were caught in the sheave.

The derrickman lost three fingers on his left hand and the tips of two fingers on his right hand. The crew packed the fingers in ice and the injured man and his fingers were transported to the hospital. The Doctors reattached all the derrickman's fingers, however, they were not optimistic about the fingers of the left hand making it.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

The main contributing factor in this incident appears to have been lack of communication and control of simultaneous operations. Having more than one job going at once means special considerations must be taken before and during the operations.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

**Simultaneous operations must be properly planned:** Any time you're beginning a job, don't assume that what you are doing is totally unrelated to what someone else may be doing! Most of the time, there are other people or other equipment that are connected to what you're doing.

Each and every procedure should involve the following:

1. A Job Safety Analysis (JSA) should be done for this type of procedure.
2. Conduct a pre-tour/pre-job meeting and discuss the JSA.
3. Through the JSA personnel, should be assigned to each specific task in this procedure.
4. Take into consideration everything around you.
5. Determine if anything can affect what you are doing.
6. Determine if anything can be affected by what you are doing.
7. Take the appropriate steps to avoid hazards.

**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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