



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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## ALERT 06 – 42

### MAINTENANCE – TRAPPED PRESSURE

#### WHAT HAPPENED:

A Subsea Specialist and an Assistant Subsea Specialist were transferring nitrogen from one cylinder to another by taking nitrogen from partially filled cylinders to fill others. The assistant had completed the job, and after closing the valves on the cylinders, bled the pressure off the line by breaking the connection with a wrench. After the pressure bled down and he began removing the connection, a final release of nitrogen suddenly occurred. This startled the employee and caused him to jerk his head out of the way, striking the cylinder rack and chipping a tooth.

#### WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The area was cluttered with items stored on the rig.
- The employee used a square duct blower as a work platform, which caused the employee's face to be close to the cylinder rack.
- There was no JSA generated for this job.
- There was no pressure bleed-off valve on the line.
- The employee worked with unsafe equipment and under unsafe conditions while observed by at least one other team member.

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

- Each rig is to provide a bleed-off valve for this operation.
- Rig personnel are to remove the clutter from work area to provide a safe work environment.
- Personnel conducting this operation are to use a proper work platform for this operation.
- Rig personnel are to generate a JSA for this job.
- The supervisor in charge of the operation must ensure that personnel are using the right equipment and are properly instructed in how to use it safely.

**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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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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