



# Safety Alert

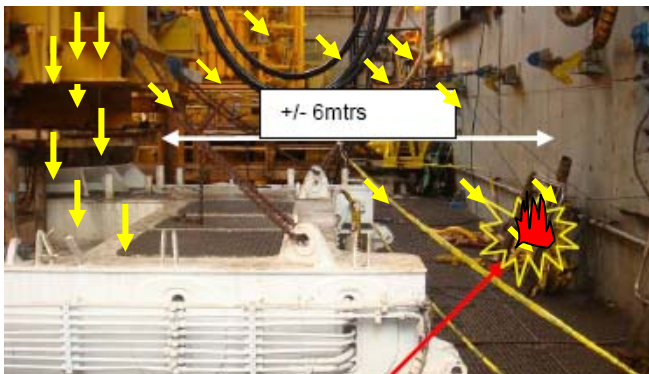
From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 09 – 34

## FIRE STARTS FROM FALLING SLAG

### WHAT HAPPENED:

A Permit to Work (PTW) had been completed and JSA reviewed. **There was no fire blanket** available so four (4) steel plates were used in an attempt to close the gap between the conductor pipe and the rotary table. A fire watch was stationed on each side of the pipe to spray water and cool the slag as the welders cut off the padeyes, but there was no fire watch in the moon pool area. Ten minutes after the job was completed, fire was spotted on the starboard moon pool walkway. Slag had fallen through the table and was deflected about 6 meters (18 feet) onto a pile of plastic cable guards left against the bulkhead. The plastic ignited but was quickly extinguished when the fire was discovered.



Hot slag fell through the table. Some was deflected by the funnel (bell) and ignited a pile of plastic left about 6 meters away (right). The fire was immediately extinguished.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

Although attempts were made to ensure safety, they were incomplete and therefore did not prevent the incident.

- The JSA did not list the potential for fire below, and there was no fire watch covering the moon pool area.
- There was no fire blanket. The plates did not adequately close the gap between the pipe and rotary.
- Flammable materials were not recognized and removed: substandard housekeeping.
- Failure to recognize the hazard of slag deflecting on the funnel below the table.

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

- Instructed rig personnel to update the welder's burning JSA to address the risk of fire below the floor. The updated JSA is to include appointing a dedicated well-equipped fire watch at the moon pool. **(Company JSA on Fire Prevention and Control; JSA on Welding, Cutting, Grinding and Burning.)**
- Instructed rig supervisors to ensure a proper fire blanket is used to completely cover the gap between pipe and rotary. **(Company Guide on Tools and Equipment.)**
- Instructed rig personnel to properly store or dispose of unused (combustible) materials. **(Company Guide on Housekeeping)**
- Remember the **ABBI** rule: for any hot work, monitor **Above, Below, Behind and Inside** before, during and after any hotwork job.

**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

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