



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 07 – 16

MUD OVERFLOW INCIDENT

WHAT HAPPENED:

While filling a trip tank with drilling fluid, the Driller started another task and failed to monitor the progress of drilling fluid entering the tank. The overflow return line could not cope with the volume of fluid and eventually the tank overflowed.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The Driller did not identify the importance of visual monitoring during this operation and left the control console. This resulted in the driller not being able to see the “tank rise” visual alarm.
- The audible alarm had been disconnected due to continuous malfunction.
- The diameter of the overflow return line was not large enough to cope with the volume of fluid entering the tank.

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

Instructed Rig Personnel and Supervisors to do the following:

- Inspect all visual and audible alarms on all mud control and return systems and tanks.
- Inspect tank overflow return lines on all similar tanks to ensure it is sufficient diameter to cope with the volume of fluid if there is an overflow.
- Review the importance of continually manning the Driller’s console at safety meetings.
- Review incident reporting and accountability requirements contained in Safety Management System at safety meetings.

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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