



# Safety Alert

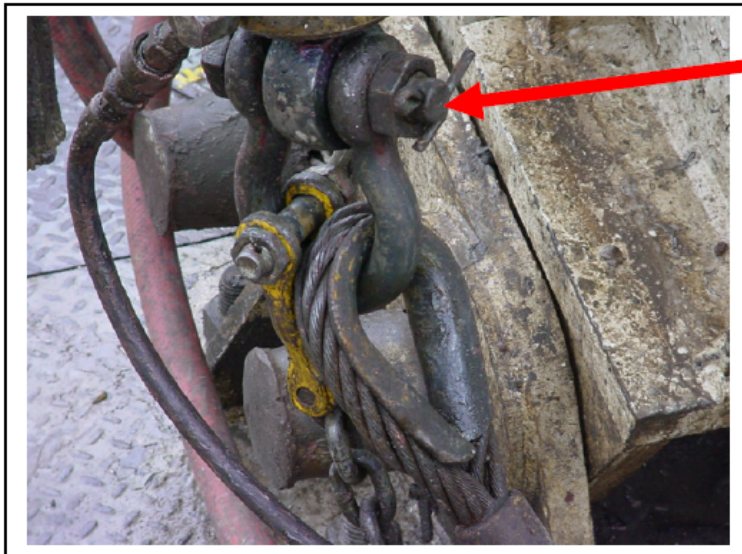
From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 08 – 19

## TONG CLEVIS DETACHES RESULTING IN EMPLOYEE INJURY

### WHAT HAPPENED:

The crew was tripping out of the hole when the clevis attaching the back-up snub line to the tongs became detached from the tong. The tong swung around striking an employee and he was knocked over by the tongs and to the rig floor. The employee only suffered contusions to his legs and body. Prior to the incident the cotter key for the bolt was lost and replaced with a larger “diaper pin” type safety keeper used on derrick pins. During the TOH the keeper was dislodged from the bolt and the nut vibrated off. The bolt dropped out of the clevis and the tongs were then free to swing around the table.



This is the bolt which fell out, the cotter key was replaced after the incident.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The missing cotter key was replaced with an improper keeper. The replacement keeper was much more susceptible to snagging and was apparently pulled out during the TOH.
2. The clevis connections were not thoroughly inspected prior to the trip. Had the nut been tightened the bolt may not have come out, even if the keeper were lost.

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

1. Informed rig personnel that when repairing or replacing missing equipment use the proper parts, not make-shift items.
2. Rig Personnel are to visually inspect tongs on a regular basis, especially prior to tripping pipe.
3. Rig managers are to ensure this Safety Alert is reviewed with each crew member. A pre-tour safety meeting is a good opportunity to conduct and document the review.
4. Rig Managers are to ensure that this Safety Alert should be posted in the top doghouse with a copy filed in the rig Safety Alert book.

**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 © 2005 International Association of Drilling Contractors All rights reserved.

Issued June 2008