



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 08 – 22

## INJURY RESULTS FROM WORKING ON PRESSURIZED EQUIPMENT

### WHAT HAPPENED:

An air line from an air compressor to the air tank was leaking. The driller decided to tighten the hammer union which was under pressure with a sledge hammer. When the 1" union was struck the air line broke striking the employee on the leg.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The employee failed to follow proper Lockout/Tagout procedures.
2. The employee failed to use the proper tool for the task.

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

1. Make sure all employees are aware of potential dangers when working on any pressurized equipment and the correct way to release trapped pressure.
2. Before working on any kind of pressurized hose or line make sure the pressure is reduced to zero and the equipment is **locked and tagged out**.
3. Be sure to use the proper size tool for the job. A smaller hammer would have been more appropriate for the task.
4. Rig managers are to ensure that this Safety Alert is reviewed with each crew member. A pre-tour safety meeting is a good opportunity to conduct and document the review. Post this Safety Alert in the top doghouse.

**IADC Note:** See IADC Alert 99-13. **Also, note the following from the IADC HSE Reference Guide:** "Employees should not attempt to tighten or loosen unions or other connections under pressure. Never hammer on a pipe or connection that is under pressure."

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**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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