



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 09 – 12

LACK OF ATTENTION WHILE USING A SLEDGE HAMMER RESULTS IN A MASHED FINGER

WHAT HAPPENED:

The injured person (IP) was using a hammer to break loose a mud pump liner nut. He missed the lug on the liner nut and the hammer glanced off of a divider between the cylinders. This resulted in the employee's finger to be mashed between the hammer handle and the divider plate.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Review of the incident revealed that prior to the start of the job the injured employee had been washing down the area around the liner nut. When finished washing down the area he signaled another employee to shut off the water. The other employee accidentally turned the water to full pressure, which resulted in the employee preparing to remove the nut to be sprayed with water. While still in an upset mood the employee picked up the hammer and began to swing at the lugs on the nut to attempt to break it loose. This is when the incident occurred.

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

- The company instructed personnel that if they become upset over something they are to take a step back and settle down before starting a task.
- Instructed workers that they begin a job, they should be totally focused on the job at hand.
- Instructed the employees that when their thoughts are clouded from the previous stress of on-or-off-the-job related problems they may fail to see the dangers involved in their work.
- Also, they were instructed that they should always explore the possibility of a better or safer process for completing any job. In this case, it was decided that a hydraulic jack would be used in the future to tighten or loosen pump liner nuts.

Crewmen are to stay focused and remember lack of concentration can lead to injury. Always ask yourself, "Is there a better or safer way of performing the 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
Copyright © 2005 International Association of Drilling Contractors All rights reserved.

Issued April 2009