



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 10 – 21

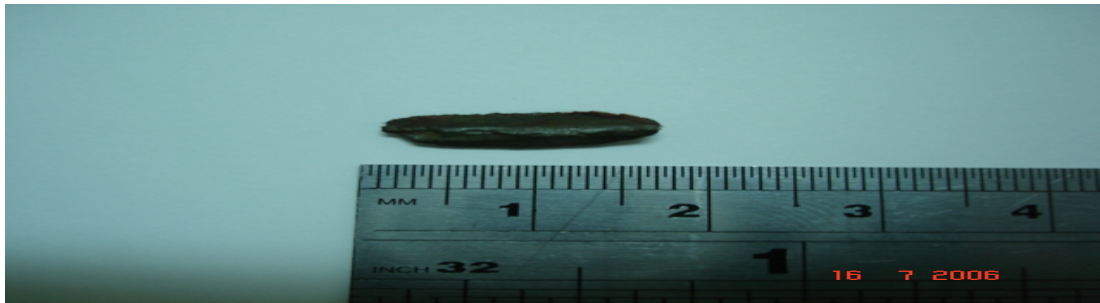
## USE OF UNSAFE HAMMER RESULTS IN RWC

### WHAT HAPPENED:

An employee was attempting to open the valve caps on a mud pump using a valve cap removing tool and a hammer. A sliver of metal broke off the hammer head and lodged deep in his left forearm. The injured employee received five stitches to his forearm.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

The injured employee struck the valve cap removing tool with a mushroomed hammer head, thereby causing a metal chip to break off the hammer head. The metal sliver went through the employee's long sleeve coverall and lodged deep in the IP's left forearm.



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

- The operation was stopped and a safety meeting held to discuss the incident outcome.
- Rig personnel conducted visual checks on all sledge hammers at all locations. Hammers with dents, cracks, chips, mushrooming, or excessive wear were taken out of service. Any damaged tools were removed from service and repairs made.
- The rig crews were reminded to strike a hammer blow squarely and to avoid glancing blows or over and under strikes, whenever possible.
- Crew personnel were instructed to inspect to make sure that the striking hammer's face and the striking face of the tool are free of oil. The hammer's striking face should be parallel with the surface being struck.
- The rig crews were trained on selecting the proper type, size, and weight of hammer for the job.
- The rig crews were instructed not to strike a harder surface with a hard surface hammer.
- The rig crews were made aware of the danger associated with striking another hammer with a hammer.

**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.**

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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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