



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01-11

NEAR MISS STICKING BOP CONTROL VALVE

WHAT HAPPENED:

While function testing the BOP's from the Toolpusher's remote panel it was noticed that the shear rams had closed without manually activating the BOP control valve lever. One joint of 5" drill pipe was squashed but not sheared. Fortunately the pipe did not shear and drop the string down hole. The red "closed" light had been noticed by a crewman and the position of the rams investigated prior to picking up the test string. However, recently another string was accidentally damaged and parted causing the rest of the string to be dropped when the string was picked up with the shear rams closed.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

Upon investigation it was found that the shear ram lever on the remote panel was stuck slightly in the closed position after the last operation. While activating the master air valve to operate another BOP function air was directed to the closing actuator on the remote unit moving the 4-way valve from the blind/shear rams into the closed position and closing the rams.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Supervisors and drill crew personnel need to remember that there is a possibility of BOP remote control panel valves sticking in an open or closed position during testing.
- Proper maintenance on these valves must be carried out on a regular basis, especially as they are not regularly used.
- Also ensure that valve handle locks are employed after operating the shear rams as this will ensure that the control lever has been returned in the neutral position after operating.

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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