



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01 – 42

ENERGY ISOLATION – Top Drive Repair Traps Fingers

WHAT HAPPENED:

While tripping in the hole, a keeper pin to the grabber heads was on the rig floor. During the keeper pin replacement, it was decided to replace the grabber heads and preparations were made to access the heads. While removing the heads from the barrel of the grabber, the retractor piston unexpectedly moved from stored energy, trapping the floorman's hands between one of the heads and the grabber barrel severing one finger, two finger tips and badly crushed another finger.

Grabber Head



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- A pre-job safety meeting was not conducted.
- Energy isolation was not done after cycling the grabber and prior to removing the heads.

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

- Pre-job safety meetings and Energy Isolation Policy were re-emphasized.
- To bleed off pressure and for easy access to determine that no pressure was in the line, a valve and gauge were installed on the air system to the grabber head piston.
- The procedure for replacing grabber heads was revised to include adequate hazard mitigation and energy isolation.

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.
