



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01 – 43

NEAR MISS – PRESSURIZATION OF A TOTE TANK

WHAT HAPPENED:

Recently a near miss occurred while a derrick-man and mud engineer was trying to drain a tote of additive into a mud pit. Several attempts were made to drain the tank but due to the consistency of the fluid these attempts failed. The 2" vent on top of the tank was opened and a water hose was attached with a crow foot connection. The 2" drain valve was opened at the bottom of the tank. The tank drained for a short time, then the drain valve apparently became clogged with the fluid. There was no other vent on this tank open and this caused the water to pressurize the tank. The tank was not rated for pressure so when the rig's drill water (approximately 80psi) was stopped from escaping it buckled the tank.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- There was no JSA written for this procedure.
- The proper procedure was not followed for draining this type of tank.
- The proper equipment was not being used for this procedure.
- The failure to recognize the potential hazards involved with this procedure.
- The failure to recognize the potential of the water to be a source for energy.

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

- A JSA was written on this procedure and the potential hazards were identified.
- An alternate method of getting the product to drain was put in place.
- The importance of hazard recognition was discussed with all personnel.
- The importance of writing a JSA to identify hazards at all steps of a job was discussed.

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.
