



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 51

FLASH FLOOD INCIDENT

WHAT HAPPENED:

The Night Toolpusher was making a midnight crew change with a four wheel drive vehicle at a desert location. It had been raining very hard for several hours and the crew bus was unable to get to location. The Toolpusher was crossing a spot in the road that had been covered by water. As the vehicle entered the water a wall of water picked up the vehicle and floated it for approximately 120 ft before coming to a stop. At this time the water level was up to the bottom of the windshield, approx 4 1/2 ' and running rapidly. The crew of 5 people climbed out the windows and on to the roof of the vehicle, radioed for help and waited for the water to subside. After 20 minutes the water subsided and the employees made it to safety. Fortunately no one was injured but damage did occur to the vehicle. Flash floods, especially in desert areas, can occur very quickly. Flash flooding is the #1 weather related killer around the world.

flash floods
and floods...
the Awesome Power!



WHAT CAUSED IT:

The Night Toolpusher drove into water not knowing the depth or being aware of the potential of a wall of water coming down the low area.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company issued the following guidelines:

- Get out of areas subject to flooding. This includes dips, low spots, canyons, washes, etc.
- Avoid already flooded and high velocity flow areas. Do not attempt to cross flowing streams.
- If driving, be aware that the road bed may not be intact under flood waters. Turn around and go another way. NEVER drive through flooded roadways!
- If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground. Rapidly rising water may engulf the vehicle and its occupants and sweep them away.
- Be especially cautious at night when it is harder to recognize flood dangers.
- Do not camp or park your vehicle along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.



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.
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Issued November 2002