



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 03 – 23

CRACKED FUEL LINE RESULTS IN AN ENGINE FIRE

WHAT HAPPENED:

Fire detection system indicated fire in the “engine room”. Engine emergency shut down was initiated and all personnel proceeded to their relevant muster points. The fire alarm sounded and the local crew responded immediately to the fire. During this time the mechanic had already shut down engine # 1 and extinguished the fire, using fire station a 30 kg CO₂ extinguisher. The fire was extinguished without causing further damage.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

A hairline crack (2mm) was observed in the fuel line from the left hand fuel manifold to cylinder # 3. The fuel came into contact with the heat from the exhaust manifold where it ignited and caused the fire. It was found that there was a lack of inspections and maintenance on this equipment. The investigation also revealed that there was also an inadequate design.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company instructed rig personnel to:

- Examine condition of the all fuel lines daily.
- Visual inspection of clamps rubbers and general condition.
- Check torque of connections & fuel line clamps.
- Double coated fuel line to be installed on all engines.

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.
Copyright © 2003 International Association of Drilling Contractors. All Rights Reserved
Issued June 2003