



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 03 – 36

HIGH PRESSURE BOP FLUID RESULTS IN AN INJECTION INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:

The injured person was changing out fittings from a blue bypass valve (pressure approximately 5000 psi). He was attempting to bleed off the pressure on the line between the Moonpool and the High Pressure Unit by loosening a 3/8 inch compression fitting on a stainless steel high pressure tubing. The injured person was holding the tubing in place covered with a rag when depressurizing the line. As the tubing nut was being loosened, high-pressure BOP fluid was released off the line through the ferrule. The high-pressure BOP fluid along with particles of the rag were injected into the injured person's hand.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Safe work procedures were not followed.
2. A permit to work was not initiated.
3. A Safe Job Assessment was not properly executed.
4. The injured person was in an improper work position for the task.

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

Issued a standing work instruction to re-confirm pre-existing procedures:

- The Drilling Superintendent and / or OIM will provide authorization for any piece of well control equipment to be worked on.
- Any work being done on any piece of high-pressure equipment, will require a Work Permit, Safe Job Assessment (SJA) and toolbox discussion before work commences.
- Senior Subsea Engineer is to verify SJA before work commences.
- No pressurized equipment that has a fitting of any type will be de-pressurized by loosening the fitting.
- All pressures are will be vented off safely before work commences.
- In the event that an unforeseen circumstance during the task occurs, the task will be re-evaluated and noted before continuing.

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.