



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 04 – 15

MAKING UP BIT INTO BIT SUB RESULTS IN HIGH POTENTIAL NEAR MISS

WHAT HAPPENED:

The floor crew was in process of making up bit, bit sub, and first 6-1/4" drill collar. When drill collar was in V-door, the lift sub was installed, tightened with the chain tong and hammered up. The collar was then picked up and set in the bit sub. The pipe spinner shouldered up the collar onto the sub, but would not shoulder up the sub to bit. The floor crew installed the rotary tongs and started making up the bit, the driller was watching his torque gauge during this process. When the connections were made up, the driller raised the blocks to pick up the collar, sub, and bit. At this point the lifting sub came out of the collar. The collar then fell across the driller's side landing then onto the mud pit causing damage to stairs.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Potential Root Causes:

The floor crew was not watching the lifting sub during last part of process;
Possible wear on threads, which prevented the lifting sub from being fully torqued.

Contributing Factors:

Both Floor hands were concentrating on making tongs bite properly;
Driller was watching torque gage, which left no one watching the lifting sub;
Elevators not being hobbled could have added friction on the lifting sub.

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

- After hammering up the lifting sub is in the V-door, lower into mouse hole (well hole and set slips) and make up the lifting sub with rig tongs;
- Do not turn collar until person is watching the lifting sub;
- Inspect collar box and lifting sub threads before using.



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.

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Issued April 2004