



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 04 – 34

H₂S INHALATION: MAN FELL FROM TOTE TANK RESULTING IN AN LTI

WHAT HAPPENED:

The injured person (IP) was pumping fluid waste contents from the hazardous drain tank to the tote tank on deck. Approximately 40 seconds after the fluid had been flowing, the IP called the Engine Room Operator (ERO) and asked him to stop the pump; at this time the ERO noticed that the Motorman's breathing sounded labored over the radio. Communication was broken off, and the ERO pushed the E-Stop and tried to re- contact the IP to see if he was all right. When there was no response he proceeded to personally check on him. Arriving at the scene, the ERO found the IP lying face down on the Deck, with obvious signs of a head injury.

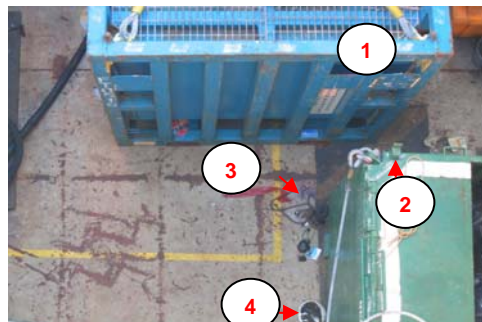
WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Safe Job Analysis was not properly executed
 - Fall protection was not identified/or worn
 - Risk of H₂S being present in the tote was not identified
2. Leadership/Planning/Guidance
 - Near-miss reported on June 14/04 regarding an H₂S alarm being activated when transferring fluids from the OBM Tank to the Mud Pits was not followed up in a timely manner
 - Formal procedure controlling the risks for transferring fluids from both the hazardous drain tank and/or OBM to the Mud Pits or Tote Tanks was not developed prior to this incident
3. H₂S was generated due from stagnant salt water and rain water in the drains from around the rig and the hot temperatures

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

- Developed procedures for transferring fluids from the Hazardous Drain Tank and/or the OBM Tank to the Mud Pits, Tote Tank or Over the Side. Procedures include such safety measures as;
 - Continuously monitoring for H₂S during the transfer;
 - Treating tanks if H₂S alarm reaches 5ppm;
 - Transferring fluids to the tote tanks from the bottom of the totes instead of from the top;
 - Ensuring that personnel involved in the transfer process are either on the ground monitoring fluid levels or on a higher level (but not on top of the tote tank)
- All Tote tanks were immediately tested for H₂S and treated as required. The tote tank involved in this incident was treated.

1. IP fell from;
2. Hit his head on green tank;
3. Found on deck;
4. Helmet location.



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.