



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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**ALERT 98-03**

## Adjustable Pipe Wrenches

A lost workday accident occurred while rigging up wireline equipment. The wireline contractor was using a 24" iron pipe wrench to construct the appropriate tool. Another employee was holding the backup during the tightening of the tool, when the adjustable ring broke, striking the employee in the right eye. Proper working procedures were in place with no excess pressure applied.

The operator concluded that the wrench failure was by brittle fracture as a result of corrosion and wear of threads.

The operator recommended visual inspection of all similar tools for external corrosion of the ring and wear of the jaw threads.

1. Adjustment rings that no longer clearly show the "knurled" patten on the exterior surface should be removed for cleaning and examination of the threads.
2. If the threads no longer have a distinct "flat" crown, the ring should be replaced.
3. Jaws that no longer have distinctly "flat" thread crowns the full length of the jaw should be replaced.

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**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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