



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 98-04

Radio Frequency Radiation Hazards

API RP54 states: "Precautions should be exercised in explosive operations to prevent radio frequency radiation hazards. Warning signs should be posted or other appropriate measures taken so that radio and radar frequency units will be shut off when within hazardous distances of explosive operations."

The IADC Accident Prevention Reference Guide states: "Radio and radar transmitters should be turned off within 500 feet of perforating operations, electrically fired back-off operations and electric blasting caps unless they are stored in grounded metal containers.... Radio silence can be broken with no danger if the gun in the well is at least 200 feet or deeper from the ground level."

Mobile cellular phones should be added to the list of equipment to be prohibited from operation when these activities are in progress. Power to cell phones should be switched **off** when in the vicinity of explosive operations. Even when not in "talk" mode, cellular phones emit a radio signal when in "standby."

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.
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