



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 12 – 26

GLOVED HAND CAUGHT IN PIPE SPINNER RESULTS IN INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:

The crew was utilizing a lay down machine to pick up 4" (10cm) drill pipe. During this operation, the floor man was assisting the crew by pulling the pipe spinners onto the joint of drill pipe. As he pulled the spinner toward the drill pipe with his left hand, he placed his right hand onto the joint of drill pipe to get more leverage. As the pipe spinners were latched onto the joint of drill pipe and engaged, his right hand glove became entangled in the pipe spinner chain. His right hand was pulled into the jaws of the pipe spinner resulting in multiple fractures to his right middle finger. Quick actions by the crew prevented this incident from being more serious.



Correct Hand Placement



Incorrect Hand Placement

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The employee did not realize that he had placed his hand into a pinch point area on the drill pipe.
- The crew did not recognize and correct the hazard that was created by the floor man's improper hand placement.
- The pipe spinner was not equipped with a tagline which is supposed to keep the employee's hands in a safe position when pulling the spinner toward the joint of drill pipe.
- The JSA did address these concerns; however, the employee still inadvertently placed his hand on the drill pipe.

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

- The rig managers and supervisors were instructed to remind their employees to recognize and keep their hands and fingers out of pinch points.
- All personnel were reminded that they must always be on watch for hazards and perform stop task / stop work when a hazard is recognized (prior or during an operation). Once the hazard is eliminated / controlled, then operations may resume.
- Rig managers and supervisors must ensure that all pipe spinners are equipped with taglines and they must monitor their employees performing the task to verify that the tag lines are being used as intended.
- Floor hands were reminded that their hands must be kept in a safe position when pulling the spinner toward the joint of drill pipe and while securing the spinners back toward the derrick A-Leg.
- The supervisors were reminded that they are to monitor their employees to make sure that the JSA steps are followed.

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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