



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

---

ALERT 02 – 46

## FALL FROM MUD PUMP

### WHAT HAPPENED:

A derrickman opened the relief valve to bleed off the mud pump then made repairs to stop the end cap leakage. After repairing the mud pump, the derrickman instructed an employee to ensure the valve to the main discharge line was completely open. The employee operated the valve. Meanwhile, the derrickman called the driller to start pumping with both pumps. The derrickman noticed returns from the pop off relief line and instructed a second employee to close the bleed-off valve. Upon closing the bleed-off valve the pop off valve blew causing a piping “T” after the pop off valve to split, releasing pressure/mud and the employee near the “T” fell backwards. The employee received a lacerated hand.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

No pre-job meeting was held, and no JSA developed/reviewed. Derrickman assumed his assistants knew the procedure and the equipment (determining if a valve is open/closed). An employee was allowed to climb onto operating equipment. No evidence of lock out/tag out procedures in place.

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

- Instructed personnel to follow lock out/tag out procedures.
- Teamwork and communication is the key to any successful job.
- **REMEMBER to review the JOB SAFETY ANALYSIS (JSA).**
- When something is not completely right the job should be immediately shut down and re-evaluated.
- Valves should always be double checked to ensure proper alignment **before** pumping commences, never assume.

---

**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.  
Copyright © 2002 International Association of Drilling Contractors. All Rights Reserved  
**Issued October 2002**