



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 03 – 41

## IMPROPER HAND PLACEMENT ON CASING TONG RESULTS IN FINGER INJURY

### WHAT HAPPENED:

While running 7" casing in the hole, the injured person (roustabout) together with the derrickman were handling the hydraulic casing tong, to screw and tighten both joints. The derrickman was in charge of operating the hydraulic casing tong and the roustabout was in charge to open and close the casing tong around the casing. The roustabout had his left hand on the casing tong handle to guide the entrance of the jaw toward the casing joint. The derrickman pushed the casing tong to approach the casing. The effect of the weight and the movement of the casing tong resulted in the roustabout's middle finger and first finger to be pinched between the casing and the power tong handle. The incident resulted in partially cutting off the first phalange of middle finger.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

There was inadequate leadership/supervision and lack of control. Commitment and leadership were lacking. There was a need for Risk Management. The injured person did not anticipate the hazard of his hand placement.

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

- Conducted Safety Meetings to discuss the incident with all crews, (Prior to operating any Tong, it should be positioned correctly for the Task).
- Instructed personnel to make sure the casing tong is positioned correctly prior to starting the operation.
- A review of the procedure was conducted and investigated the possibility of using a short rope on the casing tong handle to guide the entrance of the jaw toward the casing joint.
- Re-emphasized the company's Hands & Fingers Refresher Campaign.

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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.**