



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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## ALERT 04 – 37

### TEST ASSEMBLY MAKEUP RESULTS IN A FATALITY

#### WHAT HAPPENED:

The rig was pressure testing BOPs and surface equipment. The test assembly had been made up with a side entry sub and lo-torque valves. On the 3rd test, the manual lower IBOP (inner blow out preventer) on the TDS (top drive system), could not be closed due to the position of the torque tube key slot. At this time the TDS connection was broken and backed out of the test string to align the torque tube key slot. After the key slot had been aligned and the valve closed the driller proceeded to make up the TDS connection. Rig tongs were placed on the TIW valve above the side entry sub for back up. While applying torque the tong bite broke and allowed the test assembly to rotate. The deceased was struck about the abdomen and upper body by the side outlet and lo-torque valve. (See picture at right).



Picture 1

#### WHAT CAUSED IT:

The exact cause of the accident and corrective measures to be undertaken are still under investigation. The failure to identify the hazard and assess the risk was a major factor in this fatality.

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

An immediate fleet-wide procedural change prohibiting the attachment of any pressure testing assembly to a side-entry sub until all drill string connections have been made up to their full make up torque shall be effective immediately.

In order to prevent this from reoccurring, a job risk assessment shall be developed and utilized on every rig for the specific procedure to be followed for make up of side entry subs that will, as a minimum:

1. Prohibit the attachment of any pressure testing assembly to the side of the side entry sub until **all drill string** connections have been made-up to their full make-up torque.
2. Ensure all side entry subs comply with the requirements of internal engineering standards.
3. Ensure that a review of all precautions and inspections identified in the company safety manual are thoroughly discussed and implemented.
4. Ensure **no personnel** are in a position that will place them in the path of a potential load or energy source.

All OIMs and Rig Managers shall: a) Submit the job risk assessment meeting the above requirements for review and approval by regional management within 7 days.



Picture 2

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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.**