



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 98-27

Energy Lock-Out Procedures

WHAT HAPPENED:

A rig worker was adjusting the front rollers on a set of pipe spinner power tongs. When the worker pressed the wrench actuator to open the jaws, one of the jaws ejected with the force of the pressurized air, causing his right hand to be caught between the body and the roller. This was a lost-time incident.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Measures were not taken to lock out the power tongs, so power was still available to the unit while it was being worked on.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Whenever working on any type of powered system electrical, hydraulic, or pneumatic always lock out the power source from the unit being worked on.
2. Before disconnecting and reconnecting a piece of equipment, obtain permission from your supervisor to do so. Your actions could affect other rig activities.
3. Ensure that no power can activate the unit. If possible, completely disconnect the power source, such as an air line.
4. Discharge all pressure/capacitance from the system before any work takes place. Place a tag on the locked-out power source stating it is not to be activated until all work is complete.
5. After work is complete, re-engage the power source, remove any lock-out tags and resume work. Inform your supervisor when the system is back online.

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.

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