



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 27

SUCTION TANK CONFINED SPACE HAZARD

WHAT HAPPENED:

While in the process of cleaning the rig mud pump suction tank, two employees had entered the tank to perform the task. A Work Permit had been completed and a JSA pertaining to Lock-Out procedures had been reviewed prior to entry into the tank. However, it had been overlooked that the discharge line from #2 pump pressure relief valve discharged into this tank compartment. The #2 pump had not been isolated, nor had the pump bleed off line been opened. Fortunately, the Supervisor observed the danger and removed the employees from harm before an incident could occur.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The rig specific JSA was not adequate to address all hazards of the task.
- All potential hazards had not been identified for this task.

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

- A complete hazard review of this confined space and related lock-out procedures must be conducted
- A revised JSA will be written to address all hazards related to performing work in the mud tanks
- The potential serious consequence of this exposure should be discussed with crews in the next HSE meeting to raise awareness.

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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