



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 12 – 21

LACK OF COMMUNICATION RESULTS IN MULTIPLE INJURIES

WHAT HAPPENED:

The crew was in the process of laying down drill pipe. A joint was pulled out of the hole, the slips were set, the tongs were attached to the top and bottom of the tool joint and the connection was broken. The bottom set of tongs were removed and the Driller engaged the rotary to spin out the connection. The breakout tongs were left on the upper joint to keep the blocks from rotating and tangling the lines. As the rotary engaged, the crew did not notice that the breakout tongs slid down below the tool joint to the pipe in the rotary. The break-out tong hand made the tongs bite, as he had prior, thinking that they were on the top joint. At the same time, the injured employee reached into the Red Zone to grab the tail rope on the back handle of the tongs to help pull the tong around. As he reached in, the tongs bit on the pipe in the rotary and swung around striking the employee in the chest knocking him back into the laydown post which was in the mouse hole. He then fell forward, landing face first on the floor. The employee sustained multiple injuries. Quick responses by the crew, and the medical team upon their arrival to the site prevented more serious complications.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- It was an accepted practice to rotate the pipe out when they were in the upper part of the hole, so the crew did not use the pipe spinner.
- The Driller did not make sure that the tongs were set and bit into the top joint of pipe prior to engaging the rotary table.
- The crew did not recognize and correct the hazard which was created when the tongs slid down the pipe (i.e., they did not call “Stop the Job”).
- The employee placed himself in a dangerous area by entering / reaching into the “Red Zone” for a pullback rope tied onto the back of the tongs to assist another employee in making the tongs bite.

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

- The company instructed the Drilling Superintendents and Rig Managers to discuss with their Drillers that the practice of rotating out of the hole is no longer acceptable. ONLY the following exceptions are acceptable:
 - Working the Bottom Hole Assembly – slow rotation of the rotary table is acceptable, as long as it is safe to do so, to assist in breaking out or making up the BHA; Rig Manager MUST be present.
 - Equipment Failure – if the pipe spinner fails, and it is deemed critical to continue coming out of the hole, the rotary table may be utilized ONLY with full up-line (up to and including the Vice-President) approval prior to continuing.
- The Drillers were instructed that they must make sure that the tongs are set and bit into the correct tool joint prior to breaking out or making up a tool joint. In the event that an exception has been granted to use the rotary table for rotating out drill pipe, the Driller MUST ensure that the breakout tongs are in place on the top tool joint and that personnel are in the “safe zone” PRIOR to engaging the rotary table.
- All personnel involved a task were reminded that they must always be on watch for hazards and “Stop the Job” when a hazard is recognized (prior or during an operation). Once the hazard is eliminated / controlled, then operations may resume.
- All personnel were reminded of the dangers of reaching into the RED ZONE.
- The Rig Managers and Drillers were instructed to verify that pull back ropes are removed from manual tongs.

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

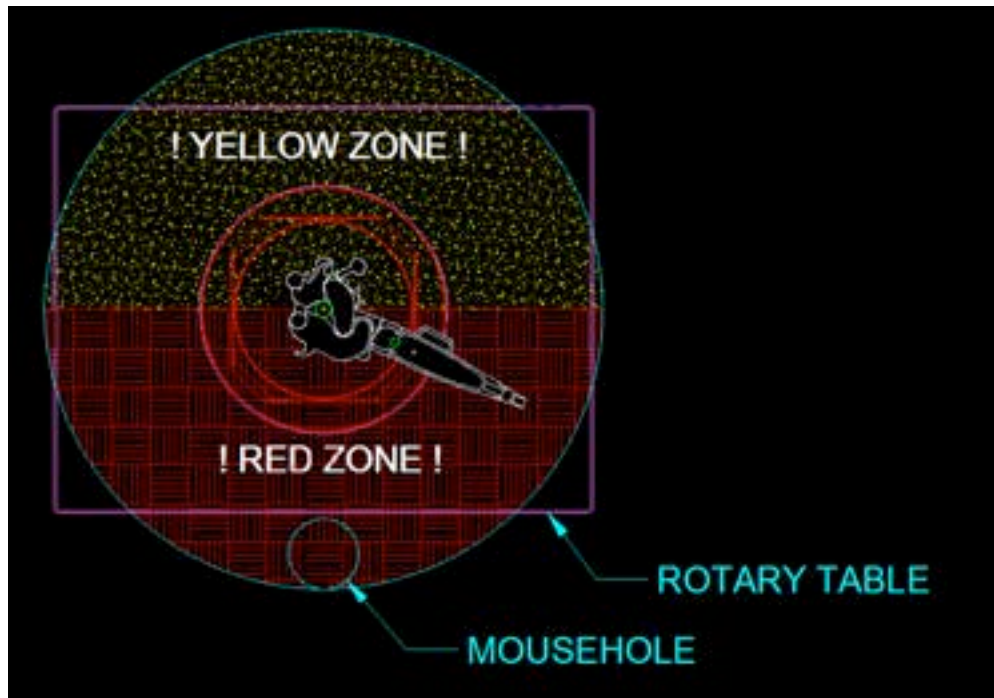
Copyright © 2008 International Association of Drilling Contractors All rights reserved.

Issued August 2012



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors



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 © 2008 International Association of Drilling Contractors All rights reserved.

Issued August 2012