



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 12 – 24

MISUSE OF HIGH PRESSURE CLEANER RESULTS IN INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:

The injured person (IP) was assisting the Night Mechanic in attempting to clear the cellar pump suction line which is used to empty the cellar. The IP, who was a short-service employee with only three (3) days on the rig, held the hose while the Night Mechanic used the high pressure wash down gun inside the hose. When the Night Mechanic activated the gun, the high pressure spray from the gun took him by surprise. The high pressure wash down gun kicked up and the nozzle swiped the IP across his face from his chin to his right ear.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The IP was a short-service employee who had only worked three (3) days on the rig.
- Clearing the hose in such a manner using a high pressure wash down gun when one man is in the line of fire was hazardous.
- The job was uncontrolled.
- The person using the high pressure wash down gun did not understand the risks the IP was being exposed to.
- The high pressure wash down gun has a regulator which can be adjusted to change the pressure and should have been regulated down to suit the needs of the job.
- The high pressure gun pressure regulator had been adjusted to its maximum pressure setting, causing the unexpected kickback.

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

- The rig personnel were instructed to order the correct ball valve / filter for use with the pump suction line to reduce the risk of foreign objects blocking the suction line.
- Supervisors were reminded that they are to hold mandatory Pre-job safety meeting prior to any task requiring the use of the high pressure wash down gun.
- The rig personnel were reminded that only authorized personnel are to adjust the pressure regulator of the high pressure wash down gun.
- Maintenance personnel were instructed that a pressure gauge is to be fitted on the pump.
- The company policy on short service employees regarding, induction, training and how they are supervised at the rig site was re-enforced with all employees.

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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