Safety Alert
From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 03 – 36

HIGH PRESSURE BOP FLUID RESULTS IN AN INJECTION INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:
The injured person was changing out fittings from a blue bypass valve (pressure approximately 5000 psi). He was attempting to bleed off the pressure on the line between the Moonpool and the High Pressure Unit by loosening a 3/8 inch compression fitting on a stainless steel high pressure tubing. The injured person was holding the tubing in place covered with a rag when depressurizing the line. As the tubing nut was being loosened, high-pressure BOP fluid was released off the line through the ferrule. The high-pressure BOP fluid along with particles of the rag were injected into the injured person’s hand.

WHAT CAUSED IT:
1. Safe work procedures were not followed.
2. A permit to work was not initiated.
3. A Safe Job Assessment was not properly executed.
4. The injured person was in an improper work position for the task.

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

Issued a standing work instruction to re-confirm pre-existing procedures:

- The Drilling Superintendent and / or OIM will provide authorization for any piece of well control equipment to be worked on.
- Any work being done on any piece of high-pressure equipment, will require a Work Permit, Safe Job Assessment (SJA) and toolbox discussion before work commences.
- Senior Subsea Engineer is to verify SJA before work commences.
- No pressurized equipment that has a fitting of any type will be de-pressurized by loosening the fitting.
- All pressures are will be vented off safely before work commences.
- In the event that an unforeseen circumstance during the task occurs, the task will be re-evaluated and noted before continuing.

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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.