

ALERT 14 – 16

IMPROPER HAND PLACEMENT RESULTS IN AMPUTATION

WHAT HAPPENED:

The rig crew and a 3rd party company were running casing with a Casing Running Tool (CRT). After running the casing to the curve (kick-off point), the slips were set, the elevators were removed, and the CRT was lowered to fill up the casing. As the CRT was nearing the top of the casing in the rotary, a 3rd party casing employee (IP or injured person) grabbed the top of the casing for leverage. In an attempt to gain leverage, he placed part of his fingers inside the casing while pushing the elevator links out of the way with his other hand. As the CRT was lowered, his fingers were trapped between the CRT and the casing resulting in the amputation of his fingertips.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The 3rd party casing employee placed his hand into a pinch point for leverage.
- The 3rd party employee was a Short Service Employee (SSE) and was not recognized in the pre-task JSA as such prior to beginning the casing operation.
- The slips were set with the top of the casing low to the floor which allowed for a “convenient” leverage point for employees working on the floor.
- With the slips set where the top of the casing was low to the floor, there was not enough room to allow the insertion of the CRT without removing the elevators.
- Crew positioning, while pushing the elevators and links back, minimized the Driller’s view.
- Wet weather conditions minimized the Driller’s view of the work area.

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

The company instructed all rigs in the fleet to review and revise the rig specific JSAs to:

- Remind all crew members, including rig and 3rd party contractors, to never place their hands and fingers into any pinch points, especially on top of pipe or casing that is being run in / out of the hole.
- During the pre-job safety meeting, the supervisor should question 3rd party personnel to determine their experience level / SSE status, and to remind all personnel to be more watchful over inexperienced personnel.
- For fill-up operations, set the slips high enough to keep personnel from being able to reach into the top of the casing for leverage.
- Setting the slips high should allow the CRT to be inserted into the casing without removing the elevators. If this is not feasible, then other steps should be determined and communicated to identify the potential pinch points and to remind personnel to keep their hands and fingers clear.
- Keep the floor area around the casing clear of personnel when lowering the CRT.
- Whenever conditions (weather, obstruction by personnel, etc.) minimize the view of the work area, a Stop Work should be called to discuss the concerns and determine the steps to proceed more safely.

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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