



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 25

DROPPED ACCUMULATOR BOTTLE RESULTS IN A FATALITY

WHAT HAPPENED:

A Rig Manager was fatally injured after an accumulator bottle exploded. The Rig Manager was in the process of picking up freight from a third party distributor. The freight consisted of two nitrogen bottles and two 10 gallon accumulator bottles. The bottles were stored in a trailer which required forklift assistance. It is believed that one of the accumulator bottles came off the pallet as the forklift driver backed away from the trailer. The Rig Manager was positioned at the driver's side of the crew cab approximately 25 feet (7.5 meters) from the trailer. The bottle struck the edge of the concrete pad and exploded, fatally injuring the Rig Manager.

The company is currently waiting on third party engineering information pertaining to the explosion which will come through the governmental, Workplace Health and Safety agency. In the interim, the following measures have been implemented until the cause can be determined.

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

- All accumulator bottles will be shipped with a maximum of 5 PSI. The balance of the pre-charge will be completed at the rig.
- The company has reinforced all handling procedures pertaining to pressurized containers.
- Employees are **NOT** to accept under any circumstances, pressurized vessels, if they are not adequately secured. This would include SCBA bottles, pulsation dampeners, nitrogen bottles, propane and accumulator bottles.
- The company is currently reviewing standards associated to maintenance of all pressurized cylinders.
- A follow-up Safety Alert will be issued once the cause has been determined.

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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