


IAGC STEP CHANGE  
INITIATIVE  
SEISMIC



**SAFETY ALERT**

Title	Chief driller fatally injured during drilling operations
Region	North Africa
Date of Incident	October 2014
Weather	Clear, windy (30 km/h), 10°C
Incident Description	<p>On a 2D explosive/vibro seis project, drilling operation was on going with a tractor mounted drill.</p> <p>Due to morning low temperature the experienced driller was wearing a hooded sweater below his coverall. Coverall was closed, hood being outside.</p> <p>While cleaning the clamp/pipe without stopping the rotation, the victim, for still unclear reasons (lost balance?), got his body in contact with the rotating pipe, his arm being dragged by the pipe rotation causing pressure.</p> <p>Due to this pressure, hood got dragged in the rotation of the pipe, causing kinking of his clothes and strangulation.</p> <p>Helper hit the emergency stop push button and tried to free the casualty from his clothes with the help of his colleagues.</p> <p>Medevac has been launched immediately. Ambulance arrived 20 minutes after and casualty death was pronounced at the hospital.</p>
	
Findings	<p>Cleaning of pipe/clamp without stopping the rotation.</p> <p>Driller got closer to the pipe while rotating for unknown reason.</p> <p>Wearing of sweater with hood that was probably caught by the rotating pipe.</p>
Conclusions	<p>Rotation shall be stopped for clamp/pipe cleaning.</p> <p>Prefer hold-to-run rotation controls on drilling units, mandatory for auger drilling.</p> <p>Ensure emergency switches are easy to reach and actually stop the hydraulic, not only the engine.</p> <p>Identify best solution to protect rotating parts e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cage around rotation head and rod to forbid the access to mobile parts through protection of the working area</li> <li>- Implementation of a restricted operating mode when the cage is opened</li> <li>- Inside the cage, use of sensitive protective devices to control the residual risk</li> </ul> <p>Identify by default solution to protect rotating parts e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of sensitive protective devices</li> <li>- Use of restricted operating mode</li> </ul>
Alert Issued:	18/12/2014. <i>If more information required Contact IAGC.</i>