



ROUND TABLE GROUP

Information Submission on Fatal / Significant Events

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Reference RT Charter #1
Elimination of Fatalities and Major Incidents - A statesman role in understanding and addressing industry hazards that may result in fatalities or major incidents.

COMPANY:		Fatality	Incident	Property Damage	Process Loss
DATE OF EVENT:	1 Aug 2008				
TIME OF EVENT:	1220 hrs		X		
DESCRIPTION OF EVENT:	<p>An exploration Drill rig Offsider was attempting to clean out the drill head. While he was trying to unscrew the drill head, the hammer bit has caught on the rod wipes inside the “stuffing box” (also known as ‘outside return box’). As he attempted to unscrew the hammer bit, the rods and the bit rotated clockwise resulting in the stuffing box and the attached 2 metre exhaust pipe rotating towards the Offsider. The exhaust pipe struck the Offsider at hip level, making contact with his right hand.</p> <p>Potential for Fatality: Had the strike of the uncontrolled energy been higher to the body, this could have resulted in permanent disabling to fatal injuries</p>				
DIRECT / UNDERLYING CAUSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still Under Investigation 				
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drilling operations ceased, medical attention sort. • Replace hook on safety chain with a 2 tonne ‘D’ shackle. • Shorten safety chain. • Develop procedures for cleaning drill bit (include removing exhaust fan first). • Include new procedure in Drilling induction. 				

