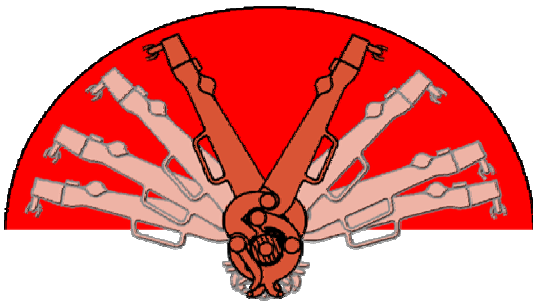


Tong Swing Accident

RECENTLY THERE WERE TWO EMPLOYEES STRUCK BY THE TONGS AFTER SETTING THEM ON THE DRILL PIPE TO HOLD TORQUE ON THE DRILL STRING WHILE A FREEPOINT AND BACKOFF OPERATION OCCURRED. WHEN THE TORQUE SPUN OFF OF THE DRILL STRING THE TONGS "CAUGHT", RIPPED THE SNUB LINE IN TWO, AND THE TONGS CONTINUED AROUND, STRIKING THE EMPLOYEES. ONE OF THEM HAD TO HAVE FACIAL RECONSTRUCTION SURGERY WHILE THE OTHER EMPLOYEE MAY HAVE HAD SOME BRUISING.

ALL EMPLOYEES SHOULD BE TRAINED TO NEVER STAND BEHIND THE TONGS WITHIN THE TONG-SWING RADIUS.



WARNING
STAY OUT OF
DANGER ZONE

IF YOU ARE HOLDING TORQUE ON YOUR DRILL STRING, IT IS BEST TO DO IT BY LOCKING THE ROTARY TABLE AND NOT WITH THE TONGS. ALTERNATIVELY YOU CAN USE YOUR DRUM CLUTCH OR BACK BRAKE (IF YOUR RIG IS EQUIPPED). IF YOU MUST USE YOUR BREAKOUT TONGS TO HOLD THE TORQUE, YOU SHOULD FIRST REPLACE OLD SNUB LINES AND ATTACH A SECOND SNUB LINE FOR THIS JOB.