

OIL INDUSTRY SAFETY DIRECTORATE  
NOIDA

**SAFETY ALERT**

E&P (Offshore)

No. 14/06

Title: **Improper length of tong safety line results in fatality**

Location: **Derrick Floor**

Activity Type  
(Result/outcome): **Fatality**

**What happened?**

During a rig floor operation a longer safety line was required instead of standard regular length at the makeup power tong. The drill crew changed out the safety line on the make-up tong with a longer one. After completion of operation, the drill crew did not replace the longer safety line with the standard length one. Next day, when the drill crew was making up a bit onto a bit sub the driller engaged the rotary into reverse direction to engage the bit into the sub. This caused the make-up tong to rotate around 180 degrees from the anchor post, instead of stopping at 90 degrees due to longer safety line. This resulted in the rig man operating the makeup tong getting trapped between the tong and the extended safety line suffering fatal injuries.

**What caused it?**

1. The drill crew did not replace the longer safety line with the proper length safety line on completion of the specific task.
2. When the drill crew engaged the tongs, they did not push the tongs around to a point that the safety line would be taut thus allowing them and the driller to see that the line was too long.
3. The driller going off duty did not inform his reliever that the safety line on the make-up tongs was changed out for a longer one to accommodate a specific operation.

**Corrective actions:**

- The relevant SOP should take into account of the requirement of a "Permit to Work" for changing of snub lines in the Operations Procedure Manual.
- Any changes made in the derrick floor equipment arrangements should be noted in the daily handing over note book during the shift change. Preferably all temporary changes made during the shift should be restored back to normal before the end of the shift.
- Drillers to follow drill floor check list as their daily checks of the rig floor.

It is provided for information purpose. This information should be evaluated to determine if it is applicable in your operations, to avoid reoccurrence of such incidents.