



**MINERAL DRILLING ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA**  
ABN 92 459 451 063  
PO Box 8463  
Perth Business Centre 6849  
[www.mdaa.net.au](http://www.mdaa.net.au)

**PROMOTING SAFETY  
AND PROFESSIONALISM**

## **SAFETY ALERT**

As many members are already aware, a fatality occurred near Kalgoorlie on a Reverse Circulation rig on 30/3/07. Whilst full details have not yet been released, it is understood that an offsider was struck by a detached sample hose and subsequently died in Kalgoorlie hospital.

The board of directors of the MDAA therefore urges you to:

1. Secure the sample hose to the cyclone and the rotation head, so that in the event of failure, the inter-connecting fittings in the circuit are always secured to a solid anchor point – use multiple rated strops or chains as required;
2. Ensure that your drill crews are fully aware of the unacceptable danger of operating without the correct safety restraints in place;
3. Revisit your safe work procedures to make sure that your crews understand them, with particular attention to situations where a blockage may have occurred or where heavy water flows are present;
4. Impress upon all your crews and clients that there is no compromise for safety in our industry.

In 2001, the MDAA produced a booklet entitled 'Guidelines for Safe Operations in the Drilling Industry in Western Australia'. We will be sending a copy to all our members as there are some relevant sections connected to this tragic event. **Particular attention should be given to Module 5 in the booklet.**

There is a requirement for industry standards to be developed and enforced to make sure that this type of accident is not repeated. The MDAA will pursue this objective vigorously in conjunction with the DOIR and other relevant groups as further information is made available. We plan to convene a contractor / rig supplier meeting to resolve the issues as soon as is practicable.

Regards,

James Colby

President  
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President – Peter Wright  
Telephone W – 9311 5600  
Facsimile – 9311 5601  
E-mail [peterw@ausdrillnw.com.au](mailto:peterw@ausdrillnw.com.au)  
Executive Officer – Ron Adams  
Telephone – 9427 0868  
Facsimile – 9427 0869  
E-mail [mdaa@casm.com.au](mailto:mdaa@casm.com.au)