

Unexpected Costs Associated with Stacking Rigs

As more and more rigs get stacked during this downturn, many operating companies are getting some unexpected, extremely high invoices for drill pipe repairs. When operating companies contract services, drill pipe is generally supplied in DS-1 condition. At the end of the contract, the pipe must be returned in condition that will pass a DS-1 inspection.

Many owners of drill pipe that use Duraband appreciate their relatively low hardband maintenance cost over the life of the drill pipe. However, there are still some pipe owners that don't specify Duraband that are shocked when they receive an invoice for repairing hardbanding to get it back to DS-1 standards. While Duraband can be easily re-applied in most cases, the huge expenses are because most other hardbanding materials cannot be repeatedly re-applied without complete removal and rebuilding. Removing and rebuilding is significantly more expensive than simply re-applying hardbanding. It's far too common that companies accept substandard work to avoid the costly repair bills, but get a huge bill later when the hardbanding is not repairable.

When it must be inspected using DS-1 standards, removal and repair of the old materials is frequently the only way it will pass the inspection. Duraband can be repeatedly re-applied without realizing cracking, spalling, porosity and delamination. Using Duraband on new drill pipe and specifying Duraband throughout the life of the drill pipe saves thousands of dollars. When it's worn down, simply re-apply it; no repairs necessary. So, operators not only save time and money getting pipe back quickly in acceptable condition when a rig is laid down, but also save throughout the life of the contract because expensive repairs are never needed. Using substandard wires quickly gets to be much more expensive when repairs have to be done.

Hardbanding is a simple process, and because it is, sometimes companies don't give it serious attention until one of the big invoices hits. Critically important is the type of wire, who applies it, and the strict adherence to proper procedure. There are several big reasons why Duraband is the most frequently preferred wire. It costs less, it protects the pipe better, and eliminates downtime caused by repairs. If you need help developing an SOP for your hardbanding operations, please give us a call.

As our industry turns things around again, it's important to remember what's happening now. Selecting the right wire, having an SOP that applicators and inspectors must

follow, and ongoing on-site inspections of hardbanding work will all help keep unnecessary costs down and eliminate, unexpected expensive surprises.

Site Inspections

A high percentage of problems associated with hardbanding re-application can be avoided by a Site Inspection. Having a technician take a look at the work being done helps ensure that the proper procedure is being followed.

Postle Industries offers complimentary Site Inspections to our clients. At your request, we will show up on location and monitor the application noting the procedure and parameters on our PQR. A complete report is generated where any deviation from the standard, and your SOP, is reported. If necessary, a corrective action plan will be implemented. There is no charge for this service; It goes along with being a Postle client. Contact your Postle Industries or Tech Center representative for more details or to set up a complimentary Site Inspection.

Remote Training

This is just a reminder that we are available for remote training via Zoom or Microsoft Teams. With travel being limited and extra screen time being part of our daily routine, this may be the ideal time to let us meet with you for some remote training.

We offer a **Pre-Hardbanding Inspection** presentation that addresses what to look for prior to hardbanding. Some of the topics covered:

- Does it need to be re-hardbanded?
- Condition of existing hardbanding
- Is it a candidate for re-application?
- IPC condition
- Is complete removal and build-up required?
- Determining a course of action

The second presentation is entitled **Hardbanding Essentials** which explains the hardbanding process including:

- Hardbanding wire selection
- Proper hardbanding equipment
- Following recommended procedures
- Pre- and post-hardbanding inspection criteria

Contact your Postle Industries or Tech Center representative for more details or to set up a presentation time.