



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 99-30

MARINE RISER BUOYANCY

WHAT HAPPENED:

While pulling the first section of marine riser through the drill floor, a section of buoyancy module weighing approximately 250 KGs (550 lbs.) fell approximately 60 feet (18 m). There were no injuries.

At the pre-job safety meeting prior to the operation, it was noted that some of the marine riser was in poor condition and that there was a potential hazard of sections of buoyancy modules dropping.

To mitigate the hazard, ratchet straps were used to secure the buoyancy modules. However, these were removed to allow the riser to pass through the divertor housing. The straps were replaced by ropes which would pass through the housing.

After the riser passed through the housing, the ratchet straps were not reattached. The riser was disconnected from the string and pushed over from the drill floor using the racking arm towards the riser catwalk. The riser was inclined from the vertical and the module fell to the deck.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Failure to reattach ratchet straps once the riser had passed through the housing.
2. Failure to appreciate the dropped object potential and the dangers presented by the weight of the buoyancy module material.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Replace riser buoyancy modules/materials as required.
2. Discuss securing arrangements with buoyancy manufacturer to ascertain alternative means of securing modules.
3. Utilize alternative means of securing buoyancy modules to riser to allow passage through drill floor opening.
4. Draft and implement procedures for handling and storage of riser. Provide crews with appropriate training in these procedures.

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

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Issued October 1999