



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 00-17

HELICOPTER LOADING / UNLOADING PRACTICES

WHAT HAPPENED:

A helicopter arrived at a rig and was met two roustabouts to unload cargo. The pilot decided not to shut the helicopter down in order to make a quick turn-around. After the passengers exited the helicopter and claimed their personal belongings, the roustabouts began unloading the cargo bay. Unknown to them, the co-pilot was on the opposite side of the aircraft, pushing the cargo toward them. The two men looked up just in time to see a wheel-mounted casing cutter roll out of the cargo bay. One man was able to jump free, but the second man was injured when the heavy tool fell on his foot.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

There was no communication between the roustabouts and the co-pilot. The roustabouts were unaware the co-pilot was trying to assist them by pushing cargo from the opposite side. The co-pilot was unaware of heavy cargo on rollers on the opposite side as he pushed cargo across the bay.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Proper communication between the flight crew and the facility personnel who are to unload the cargo is a must.
- Pilots are in charge of the aircraft, personnel aboard, and cargo. Notify your pilot of any additional safety precautions that are required to complete the loading/unloading of cargo.
- Since the pilot/co-pilot assist in loading cargo, they should inform the personnel who are to unload the cargo of heavy items or other items that require caution when unloading. Person's loading/unloading the cargo bay should communicate their intentions of how to move the cargo (informal pre-job safety meeting).
- Assigned personnel should unload the cargo bay and transport the equipment from the helideck, either manually or with the use of a crane.

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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