



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 00-33

DROPPED 16" CASING

WHAT HAPPENED:

A crew was running 16" casing using a pick-up sling and 500-ton slip type elevators. The casing threaded connections had high performance casing threads. While backing out a cross threaded connection, the top joint jumped the box. The pick-up sling had been removed and the momentum of the casing was too much for the stabber to control (97 PPF). The casing joint fell over the wind wall with the box coming to rest on the pipe rack, damaging an additional joint of casing. The casing joint was prevented from falling off the rig floor by the casing tongs, which remained attached to the pin end of the casing. No injuries occurred.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The casing pick-up sling was attached to one bale of the 24" 500 ton elevators causing the casing to be stabbed at an angle, thus requiring additional effort from the stabber. This and the high performance casing thread-form caused the stabber to have difficulty getting each joint of casing stabbed correctly. The average weight of a 45' joint of 16" casing is 4,300 lbs. The wide range of lengths of the casing (35' to 45') and large 500 ton equipment limited the adjustment flexibility of the stabbing board, preventing the stabber from normal and comfortable control of the joint being stabbed. Failure to identify abnormal stress and effort to stab the casing is an indicator that the planning sequence may have been deficient. The single joint elevators sent out for the job did not properly fit this casing type. Therefore, the crew decided to use a pick-up sling instead of single joint casing elevators.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- When possible use single joint "pick-up" elevators to pick up casing.
- Ensure that casing lengths and elevator/spider heights are compatible with the casing stabbing board travel.
- When using high performance casing threads, review and incorporate the thread manufacturers recommended safe practices for making up the connection into JSAs.
- When planning the casing job, ensure that all tools required for the casing job are at the rig site or ordered so that they are at the rig site prior to beginning to run casing.
- Rig supervisory personnel are to make sure that casing pick-up elevators properly fit the casing prior to rigging up for the job. This should be done as soon as possible after the tools arrive at the rig.
- Update all master JSAs to include procedures and hazard identification for using pick-up elevators.

The OIM (Toolpusher) should ensure that any Master JSA affected by this Safety Alert is updated. The information in this Safety Alert should be provided immediately to all personnel, and documented on the Safety Meeting Report.

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.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices.
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