



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 12 – 12

## LACK OF INSPECTION PROCEDURES RESULTS IN DROPPED BLOCKS

### WHAT HAPPENED:

The crew was tripping in to the well when the driller pushed down on the brake handle and realized that he had lost brake control. The block came down hitting the well head and rested next to the well. When the block dropped to the ground, it caused a backlash in the drill line. This allowed the drill line socket to release from the drum where it hung up in the sheave guard in the crown and caused damage to the guard.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

Upon investigation, it was learned that a square pin which ties two components of the brake system together had fallen out. Upon inspection of other rigs, it was found that one rig had a worn square pin and on another rig, the square pin had worked its way half way out. The investigation also revealed that the brake linkage systems were not being inspected on a regular basis.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

1. Instructed all divisions to check their rig's brake systems to ensure proper key placement.
2. Instructed rig personnel to ensure that the brake system is greased twice a week and the hoisting system is visually checked daily.
3. Directed Managers to distribute the alert to all divisions and discuss with all employees.

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**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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