



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 12 – 13

RIGGER SUSTAINS HAND INJURY DURING RIG MOVE

WHAT HAPPENED:

While removing a 2,100lbs. (953 Kg) set of stairs from the top dog house, a rigger's hand was caught between the stair's handrail and an air conditioning unit on the top dog house. The rigger was on the porch of the top dog house with a drilling employee removing the pins from the stairs going to the top dog house. The rigger signaled for the crane operator to pick up on the stairs. The crane operator picked the stairs up level and stopped. The rigger then signaled the crane operator to pick up on the stairs a few more feet (meters); however, when the crane operator picked up on the load, he soon realized that the stairs were in a bind and stopped again. Immediately after stopping, the stairs broke out of the bind and swung towards the top dog house. The rigger's left hand was on the inside handrail as the stairs came up and caught his hand between the stairs and the air conditioning unit of the top dog house.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Crane personnel made the decision to attempt to pick up the stairs at a difficult angle due to the placement of hydraulic fracturing tanks and pallets of mud in front of the rig. This caused the crane to be over-extended and excessively boomed down.
- Line of sight restriction between the crane operator and the rigger resulted from obstructions.
- The chokers and chains were not adjusted to allow the angle of the steps to come up without first being in a bind.
- The rigger failed to recognize the potential of the steps to come loose and to position himself accordingly.

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

- All employees were reminded to ensure that there is adequate room to make the lift safely.
- Riggers were reminded to ensure that the rigging is properly positioned over the center of gravity of the load and the boom and rigging is properly adjusted at the correct angle for the lift.
- Crane operators and riggers were instructed to ensure that the line of sight is not obstructed.
- Riggers were instructed to check their position during each lift and ensure they have an escape route.
- Riggers were reminded to consider what could happen when items are in stress/bind or stored energy is released.

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

Copyright © 2008 International Association of Drilling Contractors All rights reserved.

Issued May 2012