



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 12 – 14

## FATALITY – WORKER STRUCK BY FALLING PIPE TUB

### WHAT HAPPENED:

Two pipe tubs had been set out from the edge of the lease with a pole truck. Two trucks were called to the lease to pick up the tubs which were parallel to each other and about 8 ft. (2.4 m) apart with one tub about 8 ft. (2.4 m) further back from the other. The first truck tractor, with a lo-boy trailer, lined up to the pipe tub that was furthest back. He then hooked up chains to a set of pipe racks that were sitting on the tub. He then hooked up his loading sling to the tub and began loading the tub. While the first truck driver was getting ready, a second truck, with a hi-boy, had pulled in and lined up to the front tub. The second driver had to chain several items to the top of his tub. He had thrown three chains over the tub and began tightening the boomer on the chain that was furthest back on the tub. The first truck driver winched his tub forward and brought it about 15 ft. (4.6 m) ahead of the roll of his trailer, which was now even with the front tub. The first truck driver started winching the tub again and the pipe tub slid to the side of the trailer. He slacked off on the winch to let the tub back down and to re-align the trailer to the tub. As soon as the first truck driver slacked off the tub, it slid off of the side of the trailer. The second truck driver turned toward the falling tub and was struck in the chest area. To avoid being crushed by the falling tub, he managed to get clear; however, he died later from the force of the impact of the tub on his chest.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The lowboy deck pin that should have been in the roll pin pocket was never found.
- The load slid to the side, as it was being winched ahead. There did not appear to be any reason to winch the load ahead since the tub was now positioned in the middle of his trailer.
- The injured worker didn't recognize his position as being in a danger zone.

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

- JSAs for loading were reviewed and revised to ensure workers do not stand between loads while one is being winched on.
- Workers, in the area of winched loads were reminded that only one load can be winched on at a time so that all workers in the area could concentrate on one load at a time.
- Preparing another load is will not be done within 20 ft. (6 m) of a load being winched or loaded until the load is securely in place on the trailer.
- Drivers were reminded that the deck pins should be in place prior to loading.
- Unless there is a soft spot under the load, all drivers were instructed to roll back under loads as they are winching the load onto the trailer deck.

**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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