



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 12 – 28

## DRILLER INATTENTION RESULTS IN DROPPED BLOCKS

### WHAT HAPPENED:

While tripping in the hole, the driller was washing and reaming due to a tight hole. After raising a full stand past the derrick board, the driller started to lower the stand back down when they hit a bridge causing the blocks to lay over the top drive which allowed the drill line to acquire slack above the blocks. As the blocks were falling towards the V-door the driller clutched the draw works and at the same time the bit broke through the bridge allowing the blocks and top drive to free fall and hit the end of the slack drill line. The sudden increase of weight parted the drill line 228 feet (69 meters) from the drum of the draw works. The blocks, top drive, and the drilling line fell to the rig floor.



### WHAT CAUSED IT:

- An excess amount of slack in the drill line allowed the blocks and top drive to free fall once the bit broke through the bridge.
- Due to simultaneous operations the driller was not paying full attention to the weight indicator and was distracted by other operations going on at the same time.

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

- The crew was reminded that a JSA for washing and reaming shall be reviewed and/or updated to point out possible hazard scenarios and the information shall be shared among all crews throughout the fleet.
- The company installed a new block dolly system that will stay in the mast at all times. This will prevent the blocks from hanging out over the top drive creating slack in the drilling line during similar operations or events.
- The rig manager and driller were instructed that if the driller is distracted in any way during simultaneous operations he shall stop the job to regain focus on the task and keep constant attention on the weight indicator.

**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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