



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 14 – 06

TANK CABLE STRIKE RESULTS IN INJURY TO EMPLOYEE

WHAT HAPPENED:

Two employees were assigned to lay down the standing 400bbl tanks. The task involves attaching a winch line to the tank bridle and pulling the tank onto the bed of a truck. The bed truck, with the tank attached, was then moved to the desired location and the tank was positioned and unloaded (laid down) to face the lease entrance so a truck tractor can then pick up the tank and haul it to a location to be cleaned. In this incident, the driver of the truck placed his truck in reverse so as to position it in front of the tank while the swamper attached the truck winch to the tank bridle. The tank bridle was visually inspected prior to being attached and did not appear to be faulty. As the truck driver began to winch the tank onto the truck, the bottom of the tank slipped (kicked) out, the tank bridle broke, and the winch line snapped back towards the rear of the truck cab. The winch line tail chain punched through the rear window of the truck, striking the driver on the right side of his head and face. The driver was taken to hospital for examination and x-rays and was released the same day.



NOTE: In the pictures above, The window protection is down in the left picture as opposed to the correct position in the right picture.



Parted Tank Bridle Line

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The rear window guard (cage) on the rear of the cab was not secured during the task allowing the winch line tail chain to punch through the rear window of the truck striking the driver.

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

- The company reminded all drivers and swampers that when winching tanks onto truck, the bottom front edge of the tank should be positioned so the tank is prevented from kicking out. This can be done by lining up the bottom edge of the tank with a slight overhang over the edge of the mat. The edge of the mat will prevent the tank from kicking out in the event that the truck fails to roll forward or the tank slips on the mat.
- All drivers were reminded to ensure that the cage of the rear window is always in the closed and locked position.
- All employees were reminded that the bridles, on tanks used to attach to the winch line, should be inspected and replaced as necessary.

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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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