



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 23

BLOCKS DROP TO RIG FLOOR

WHAT HAPPENED:

While pulling out of the hole with the first stand of 5” drill pipe to change the BHA, the 3/4” make up cable had been removed from the rotary tongs and replaced with a 3/4 “ snub line. During the change out, the make up cable was dropped down between the drawworks and snubbing post which was in line with the brake linkage. As it fell, the thimble eye on the cable became wedged under the brake linkage. This was unknown to the driller. When the driller disengaged the clutch and tried to apply the brakes, the wedged thimble eye on the cable kept him from doing so and the blocks fell to the rig floor. No injuries occurred as the floor had been cleared of all personnel.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The employee did not assess the hazard of dropping the thimble eye and cable in the slot between the drawworks and the snubbing post.
- The moving parts of the brake linkage were unguarded which allowed this and any other object to become wedged under the linkage.
- Pre job planning was not adequate to be certain that all equipment was in safe working order.
- Attention to house keeping was lacking

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

- Safety meetings were held with crews to discuss the importance of assessing the hazards of each action taken while performing a job.
- The Elmago/ HydroMatic is to be kept engaged at all times during the tripping operation.
- A proper guard was fabricated to cover the brake linkage and installed to prevent recurrence.
- A pre job checklist for tripping out of the hole was written to cover all steps of the operation and equipment functionality
- Supervisors and crews were to make certain that every tool, line, or other loose items have a designated place for storage when not in use.

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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