



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01-17

NEAR – MISS CRANE FAST LINE AND LOAD LINE BECOME ENTANGLED

WHAT HAPPENED:

During nighttime boat unloading operations on a floating facility in marginal weather conditions, the Crane Operator made the last of several heavy lifts using the crane's 2-part load line. The final operation was to lower a personnel basket to the boat on the crane's fast line to retrieve a Roustabout. The Crane Operator began lowering the fast line to the pipe rack while simultaneously raising the load line. Sometime during this activity, the fast line and "headache ball" swung over and threaded itself through the two load lines but the Crane Operator was unaware of this happening. The personnel basket was picked up and lowered to the boat and the Roustabout was lifted up to the pipe rack. After storing the personnel basket back on the pipe rack, the Crane Operator realized the fast line was not recovering properly and shut down operations.

Subsequent inspection revealed the fast line had become severely damaged by rubbing against the load line and block assembly. Also, the load line was cut approximately halfway through due to the "sawing action" of the fast line.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Primary cause was lowering fast line and raising load line simultaneously in the dynamic operating environment present on a floating facility. Additional factors included night time operations and poor weather conditions (wind and seas).

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- A Job Hazard Analysis should be conducted regarding simultaneous operation of the crane's fast line and load line.
- Procedures have been implemented that prohibit simultaneous operation of the crane's fast line and load line unless coordinated and approved through a formal permit-to-work system.
- Weather conditions must be taken into consideration when planning to transfer loads or personnel to or from boats.
- Training should be implemented to inform all Crane Operators and Roustabouts regarding these procedure restrictions.

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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