



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 38

DROPPED OBJECT RELATED INCIDENTS

WHAT HAPPENED:

Recently three dropped objects incidents have occurred. First, while picking up 5-1/2-inch tubing and transferring it from the V-door to the Mouse Hole, a joint of tubing was caught under the Top Drive. The tubing joint fell and knocked the hardhat from an employee. In the second incident, while pulling a joint of 9-5/8" casing from the catwalk, the casing struck the top of the V-door, causing a shackle to fail. In the third, while disconnecting a cement hose from the cementing head, a sledgehammer fell 35 feet to the rig floor.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

In the first incident, while slacking off to latch the elevators onto the joint in the mouse hole, the rigging equipment on the joint tubing being moved caught under the traveling equipment, causing the joint of tubing to drop. In the second incident, the shackle got caught up on the peak of the V-door, causing it to break. In the third incident, the lanyard was tied around the handle of the hammer, which is not a sufficient method to prevent the hammer slipping out of the rope and falling, to the rig floor.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address these incidents, this company did the following:

Incident 1 Instructed Rig Personnel to do the following:

1. Review the procedures for moving casing and tubulars from the V-door to the rig floor. Ensure planned procedure matches requirements in the company's tubular handling policy. The procedures must include eliminating or reducing hazards and keeping risks to a minimum.
2. Develop a JSA that includes the rigging of equipment and the positions of people during the operation.
3. Operations involving use of hoisting devices to move any large equipment must have a JSA and possibly a Risk Assessment. Operations involving people in close vicinity of equipment must ensure the method involves as little contact with the equipment as possible.

Incident 2 Instructed Rig Personnel to do the following:

1. Review current rig procedures to ensure rigging equipment is correctly assembled and in line with any appropriate company procedures.
2. Review JSA to ensure it includes any possibility of falling objects or equipment hanging up.
3. Ensure all areas where equipment passes during lifting are clear, and any obstruction that may cause the possibility of something catching, being damaged or dropping is removed.

Incident 3 Instructed Rig Personnel to do the following:

1. Ensure that all personnel involved in work requiring them to be raised in a riding belt or to work at height are familiar with the associated company personnel hoisting policies.
2. Immediately inspect all hand tools and equipment to ensure a sufficient method of adequately securing the lanyard to the tool without being wrapped or improperly tied.
3. Ensure a pre-job meeting is held before all personnel hoisting operations including discussion of the appropriate JSA, hoisting procedure reviewed, and that all equipment and tools are inspected by the Driller or another Supervisor.

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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Issued August 2002