



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 14 – 10

DROPPED LANDING STRING RESULTS IN NEAR MISS

WHAT HAPPENED:

At the time of the event, the rig crew was running upper completion on 7 5/8" VAM® Top FE (Fatigue Enhanced) landing string. The hanger was 87 feet (27 meters) from land off. Having made up the final full joint of landing string, the string was lifted approximately five feet to enable a centralizer to be fitted 8 feet (2.4 meters) back on the previous joint and manual slips were pulled. When the string was lifted approximately five feet, the latch on the 250 ton side-door elevators failed and the string dropped, with the upper tool joint passing through the rotary.

At the time of failure the elevators were positioned +/- 45 feet (14 meters) above the rotary. There were no injuries to personnel. The blocks were then lowered to the deck for a closer inspection.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- A side door type elevator had been used to lift the VAM® TOP FE coupling.
- It was discovered that the elevators primary latch mechanism had sheared off. No other parts were missing.
- A mechanical failure of the VAM® TOP FE coupling face had occurred.
- A mechanical failure of the side-door elevator latch had occurred due to the VAM® Top FE coupling failure.
- Investigations are ongoing and an update will be given in due course.

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

Personnel running VAM® TOP FE products were reminded that the running recommendations must be followed. See the following:

- Slip type elevators must be used for the running of this product.
- Side door elevators should only be used as "single-joint elevators" to lift one joint of pipe at a time.
- Any VAM® TOP FE pipe strings previously run using side door elevators should be inspected before use.
- Any previous VAM® TOP FE connection data sheets that may state a "max load on coupling face" should be disregarded.
- Contact VAM® services or the supplier for a new Connection Data Sheet or for further information.

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.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices

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