



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 14 – 12

EQUIPMENT SHIFT DURING RIG UP RESULTS IN NEAR MISS

WHAT HAPPENED:

While attempting to install center steel (spreader beam) during rig up on a box-on-box substructure, the top of the boxes moved away from each other as a crane attempted to adjust a sub half for pin placement. The BOP scaffold, which had been put in place prior to pinning the center steel, was pulled off its track and fell approximately 12 feet (3.7 meters). Two employees were standing at one end of the scaffold. They were wearing their fall protection harness and lanyard and were tied off above their heads to the substructure. The equipment worked as intended; no injuries occurred.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- While being hoisted, one side of the substructure moved up and out enough to break the scaffold rollers and track stops, allowing it to fall to the ground.
- Rolling Scaffold - The scaffold was placed in position prior to securing the substructure halves.
- Center Steel Placement – Rig specific guidelines and / or JSA-Work Plan for placing center steel to secure the substructure halves were either not known or not utilized.
- Multiple Components – Once erected, several brace components can be removed as one piece; to save time the crews decided to install them as one piece, rather than breaking them down and installing them separately.
- Drillers and Crews – The crew members did not recognize the hazard of placing the scaffold in the substructure prior to installing adequate center steel.

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

- The company reminded all personnel that the rolling scaffold is NOT to be placed in the substructure until the Rig Manager verifies that an adequate amount of center steel is pinned into place to keep the sub from separating. NO exception without up-line approval.
- Rig Managers and Superintendents were instructed that they shall take steps to identify rig specific procedures for placing and pinning center steel and communicate these steps to rig move companies, Drillers, and crews PRIOR to rig up. JSA / Work Plans shall include this information.
- The company reminded all Rig Managers that unless approved by an up-line Drilling Superintendent, brace components shall be separated PRIOR to rig up; considerations should be given to separation of the components during the rig down procedure.
- The company instructed the Drilling Superintendent and Rig Manager that they shall be responsible for ensuring that these minimum requirements are adequately communicated to all new Drillers to the rig and / or rig type.

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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