



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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**ALERT 98-09**

## **BOP Fall Protection**

### **WHAT HAPPENED:**

A rig worker recently fell while working on a BOP. He was wearing a full body harness with a safety line attached to an anchor point. Nevertheless, when he fell his body swung back to the substructure and struck a beam. He required seven stitches in the groin area.

### **WHAT CAUSED IT:**

The anchor point was not directly above the employee. When he fell, his body swung in a pendulum motion until he struck the beam.

Also, the BOP scaffolding was not in place at the time of the injury. The company representative on location made the decision that there was not enough time to rig it up, and ordered work to continue without it.

### **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:**

Anchor points should be made directly overhead to eliminate the potential for a pendulum swing. Fabricate anchor points in the area of the rotary beams and place automatic locking blocks for use.

Employees should be periodically retrained in the use of fall protection equipment.

Adequate time should be allocated to ensure that proper safety precautions are taken, instead of short cuts. The safety of personnel should be the first thing considered when beginning a new operation.

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**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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