ALERT 98-32

Fatality – Crane Accident

WHAT HAPPENED:

An accident during crane operations occurred on an offshore platform tender drilling rig resulting in fatal injuries to a roustabout. The crane had picked up a bundle of tubing on the tender and had moved it to the platform catwalk. A roustabout who could not be seen by the crane operator was aligning the tubing. As soon as the load was aligned properly it was lowered to the catwalk striking the roustabout in the back and pinning him beneath it.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

The operator involved issued the following recommendations to prevent a re-occurrence:

1. A flagman should be position on the platform any time equipment is being transferred by the tender crane to and from the platform.
2. The flagman is always to be in visual contact with the crane operator.
3. Both crane operator and flagman have also been issued two-way radios since the incident.