



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 14 – 27

DROPPED OBJECT: HAMMER IS KICKED FROM WORK BASKET

WHAT HAPPENED:

An employee was operating a work basket inside the substructure while doing various tasks in preparation to nipple down the annular. He had used a 5 pound (2.3kg) shop hammer several minutes prior to the incident in order to break out the annular hydraulic lines. After he completed the task, he dropped the hammer to the bottom of the man-basket. While he was moving throughout the basket to arrange the BOP handler (chain hoist), the 5 pound (2.3kg) hammer was accidentally “kicked” out of the basket. It was “launched” approximately 10 feet (3 meters) down to the Driller’s side of the substructure where it struck another employee on the hard hat. The impact of the hammer created a pinch point between the hard hat and his safety glasses thus resulting in a laceration below his left eyebrow.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The hammer was not secured or tethered after use.
- Employees were standing in the “line of fire” watching the employee in the work basket complete his work.
- The employee operating the work basket did not call a “stop task” to move other employees out of the “danger area”.
- Poor housekeeping procedures in the work basket (i.e., the hammer and other items were not placed or secured properly).

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

- Employees were reminded of the importance of tethering / securing any tools when working overhead, even when working in a work basket.
- Personnel were instructed to discuss “line of fire” for any work, especially when the potential for a dropped or “launched” object exists.
- Personnel were instructed to discuss application of Stop Work Authority (obligation) and are reminded that SWA includes stopping and asking other personnel / by-standers to move from a “danger area.”
- The JSA / Work Plan for operating in a work basket must be reviewed / revised to include the importance of keeping the lift basket orderly (i.e., housekeeping must be maintained).

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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