

ALERT 15 – 08

DISABLED AND NON-FUNCTIONAL SAFETY DEVICES LEADS TO DESTRUCTION OF DERRICK BOARD

WHAT HAPPENED:

Recently a directional driller was having trouble keeping a tool face and told the driller to work the pipe all the way up and back down again. The stand had been drilled almost all the way down and the elevators had been kicked out over the mousehole. The driller picked up off bottom and hit the link tilt joy stick with his hand in an attempt to float the elevators in, but did not notice that the elevators did not float. The light attached to the top drive console that flashes when the link tilt is not in float was not working at this time. The driller worked the drill string up to the maximum height and then started slacking off. On the way down the elevators sat down on the diving board bending it down. The Tac II or Anti-collision system mounted in the top house that functions as an electronic crown-o-matic would have shut down the rig when the link tilt was extended above a certain height, but it had been manually turned off.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The driller did not make an attempt to latch the elevators around the drill pipe as per company policy when working pipe above the A-legs. The anti-collision system had been manually turned off. There was blatant disregard for alarms and defenses designed to prevent such an incident.

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

1. Culture: The company will not tolerate this level of blatant disregard for the defenses we have installed. Drillers and Rig Managers will be held accountable if these defenses are not utilized. Drillers must report if any of these items are not working to the Rig Manager. Rig Managers should have intensified oversight each time they are on the rig floor ensuring that everything is properly working and our policies are being followed.

2. Process: We are adding a new process defense on our Promptt system which will be under Tasking will consist of 7 questions that the Driller will answer each tour about our vital defenses. After he answers the questions the Driller will sign off on it and will be held accountable for any discrepancies.



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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