



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 13 – 06

POOR COMMUNICATION AMONGST CREW RESULTS IN INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:

The crew had just finished cutting the drill line and was preparing to lower the loose piece of drill line to the ground. The loose piece of drill line was tied off on one end to keep it from free falling to the ground, while the other end was lying on the rig floor on the off drillers' side. The crew members on the rig floor were told to stay clear of the area in preparation for the drill line to be lowered to the ground. The Rig Manager was preparing the hoist line and a strap, which was to be used for this procedure, when another crew member mistakenly cut the rope that, was holding the drill line, thereby allowing the drill line to free fall to the ground. An employee, who was standing under the substructure, was struck with the piece of drill line as it fell to the ground. The injured employee suffered a cut/scrape from this incident that required first aid treatment only.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The JSA that was performed prior to this task did not describe in full detail how this task should be completed.
- The tie-off rope was cut prematurely and before the hoist and strap could be used to lower the drill line to the ground.
- Inadequate information and poor communication. The injured employee did not hear nor receive a warning to clear the area prior to the drill line being lowered to the ground.
- The crew member, who cut the snub line, was taught this procedure from his previous employer. He was a new employee with this being his first time to cut and slip drilling line on this rig (practicing bad habits).

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

- The company reminded all employees that a complete JSA should be created, reviewed, and or updated for this particular task. The JSA should be communicated with all employees prior to starting a task.
- All crews were instructed to lower the drill line to the ground by the use of the hoist and a strap.
- All crews involved in any task were reminded to practice and demonstrate proper communication.
- The company reminded all Rig Managers that employees that are new to the company are at a higher risk for injury to themselves and could cause injury to others. These employees must be properly supervised until the supervisor is confident that there is adequate knowledge of proper policies and procedures.

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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