



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 13 – 10

HOT WORK OPERATIONS RESULTS IN DROPPED OBJECT

WHAT HAPPENED:

A third party construction company was carrying out the removal of various sections of grating from the derrick crown platform. The area had been prepared for the removal by setting up a pulley system and the grating was lashed through the perforations using retaining wire (the same type as would be used to lash scaffolding boards on to scaffolding). After the preparation work had been carried out the section of grating was cut free in order to lower it to the drill floor. At this point a section of grating measuring 70 x 37cm (2 ft x 1 ft) and weighing 5.7Kg (13lbs) broke free and fell a distance of 52m (171ft) to the drill floor. The grating struck a section of the accommodation, fragmented into three sections and then all sections landed on the port side box girder of the rig.



The 3 sections of grating measured 70 cm x 37cm (2ft x 1ft) and weighed in total 5.7Kg (13lbs).



Retaining wire used to secure the grating. Arrow shows points of failure.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- During oxy/acetylene cutting of the grating, burning slag had made contact with the retention wire causing damage which had gone unnoticed.
- When the grating was cut free from the derrick structure the weight of the grating bearing on the damaged wire caused the retention wire to fail at the damaged point.
- The drop zone was insufficient.
- Personnel were present in the landing zone.
- There was only single point retention fitted to the grating.

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

- The company reviewed their method of securing the grating to include a primary and secondary attachment. The secondary attachment should be a minimum of a certified 1 ton wire rope sling.
- The company's risk assessment procedure was reviewed to include controls to prevent damage to any lifting equipment which was to be used.
- All employees are required to inspect all lifting equipment and accessories prior to and after every operation.
- All employees were reminded, during JSA review, to take measures to ensure no personnel enter into the drop zone.
- The company initiated a stand down and held a Toolbox Talk to inform all personnel of the ongoing work. Additionally, measures were implemented to restrict personnel from all outside areas during critical operations.

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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