



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 13 – 12

EMPLOYEE STANDING IN LINE OF TRAVEL RESULTS IN INJURY

WHAT HAPPENED:

In order to replace the back pin on an iron roughneck, the rig crew was in the process of pulling the jaws loose from the body. To pull the jaw loose, the crew had connected the boom pole hoist line to the jaw in an attempt to pull it from the iron roughneck. Due to the angle of the hoist line, the load was in a bind and was pulling on the jaw in a way that did not allow the jaw to free itself. The crew continued working with the jaw and the hoist line trying to free the jaw. Suddenly, the jaw came free and shot across the drill floor, which resulted in it striking an employees' lower leg which then struck the boom pole hoist.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The injured employee was standing in the line of travel of the jaw.
- The boom pole hoist line required the line to be in such an angle that put too much tension on the line. When the jaw did come loose it traveled in the direction of the angle.
- The driller was pre-occupied with other requirements inside the driller's cabin and was not able to properly supervise the job.
- The tool pusher was not on the rig floor during this procedure.
- Neither the crew nor the equipment mechanic recognized the hazard and did not account for the angle and tension that the hoist line was under.

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

- All rigs were instructed to create a JSA for this task, which identifies the hazards associated with this task; they should also discuss the appropriate steps that are required to prevent these hazards.
- The crew members were reminded to recognize the hazard of standing in front of a load especially when that load is being pulled against or is under tension. The injured employee should have been positioned to operate the hoist from the other side and out of the line of travel.
- For this particular task and the manner in which the task is to be completed, the idea of utilizing a pulley system for the hoist line would better keep the line free from any bad angles or tension. A pulley system is to be installed directly above the equipment, which would allow the jaw to be pulled in a direction that should not put the lines at a bad angle, which would cause the load to be tensioned.
- The equipment Mechanic was reminded that he is responsible to supervise this task.
- Anytime direct supervision is needed, regardless of the current activity of the well or any other job that may be going on, the driller and tool pusher must make every effort to complete their responsibility as supervisors. No job is so important that we cannot take the time to perform the job safely.

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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