



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 13 – 17

FALL FROM HEIGHTS RESULTS IN FATALITY

WHAT HAPPENED:

The derrick had been lowered to the ground for disassembly and two of the three cranes were set up to start taking apart the substructure. A crane rigger and four other rig employees went up to the substructure to start knocking pins out of the spreaders so the crane slings could tie on to them and lower them to the ground. The first piece that needed to be removed from the substructure was the off-driller-side rotary beam. The crane rigger had attached the crane chains/cables to the rotary beam and, using hand signals, notified the crane operator to begin lifting the rotary beam. As the beam was being lifted, the crane rigger noticed that the chains were not centered, thus causing the beam to be lifted unevenly, which caused it to get in a bind. The crane rigger signaled for the crane operator to stop his lift and slack off so he could re-position the chains on the beam. The crane rigger then stepped out onto the beam; when he did, the beam came free and fell, allowing him to fall approximately 30 feet (9m) to the matting boards below. Despite the efforts of co-workers and EMS, the crane rigger died from his injuries sustained in the fall.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Even though the crane rigger was wearing fall protection; he was not tied-off.

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

- All employees were reminded that the use of fall protection equipment and 100% tie-off is required for anyone working at levels above 4 feet (1.2m) where railings are not provided or have been removed.
- All employees were instructed to immediately shut down any operation and conduct a safety meeting/review if a safety violation is observed.
- The company re-emphasized their Stop-Work Policy to all employees. Employees were reminded that there will never be any retribution for implementing the Stop Work Policy, regardless of whether the work stoppage turns out to be real or perceived.
- All employees were reminded that anyone caught violating any safety rule/regulation will be asked to immediately leave the location and not be allowed to return without management approval the company.

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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