



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 13 – 18

BODY POSITIONING NEAR SUSPENDED LOAD RESULTS IN MEDICAL TREATMENT CASE

WHAT HAPPENED:

A member of the rig crew was assisting with breaking down the BOP assembly during a rig move. He was standing under the substructure holding a cable out of the way while the choke lines were being removed out from under the substructure by the forklift. Once the choke lines became free, they swung in his direction and knocked his feet out from under him. The injured employee was seen at the local hospital where he received minimal treatment. X-rays taken of his shoulder revealed a small fracture within the rotator cuff of the left shoulder.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Positioning. The injured person was standing in the path of the choke line while it was being removed out from under the substructure.
- The injured person had his hands on a suspended load.
- Poor communication between the injured person and the employee operating the forklift.
- Complacency. The task was considered routine therefore the crew members involved with this task did not recognize the potential hazards associated with this task.
- In this case neither the injured person nor the employee operating the forklift, communicated with one another as to what the hazards are and how they can be prevented.

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

- The crews were reminded that a Job Safety Analysis (JSA) for this particular task and any task involving the handling/removal of any suspended load should be reviewed, created and or updated.
- All employees were instructed to use a tag line to maneuver any suspended loads. Tag lines are used to keep an employee out of the line of fire while dealing with moving objects and any suspended load.
- All crew members must remain in constant communication during every task. Communication can be visible as well as verbal.
- All employees were reminded that complacency can be a killer. No job is ever so important that we cannot take the time to perform the job safely.
- All employees were reminded that it is everyone's right and responsibility to utilize the company's "Stop Work Authority" policy.
- The company reminded all employees that no matter the significance of any task, crew members must make every effort to complete the task safely. Crew members are expected to recognize such hazards as this (the injured employee standing in the path of the suspended load and the injured person using his hands to guide the load rather than using a tag line). When such activities are taking place it is everyone's responsibility to step in and stop the job. Safety should never be compromised.

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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