ALERT 07 – 39

WIRE ROPE PARTED RESULTS IN A
HIGH POTENTIAL NEAR MISS

WHAT HAPPENED:

While racking back a stand of 6-1/2" drill collars, the winch line used at the monkey board to rack the drill collars parted. This allowed the collar to swing into the back of the derrick and in the process struck the rig tong cable sheave bracket. After the Driller began lowering the blocks the bracket itself dropped to the rig floor from approximately 20 meters (66 feet). The vibration from the derrick aided in breaking the remainder of the bracket weld off. No one was aware of this until the bracket actually fell. No personnel were injured. The bracket fell approximately 2 meters (6.6 feet) from one a floormen.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The Derrickman needs to remain alert while watching the winch line.
- Winch line was in bad condition.
- OEM welds on the sheave bracket were of poor quality.
- No safety lines were installed on the sheave.
- There was no proper way of rigging up safety lines on sheaves, ie, no pad eyes or holes to place a safety sling through at the time.

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

- Repairs to the bracket will be made as soon as possible depending on the rig operating schedule.
- Safety sling on Driller's side bracket installed temporarily until pad eyes or holes can be completed.
- Weld a pad eye on each sheave bracket to allow for proper rigging up of a safety sling, or drill holes in the brackets to accommodate a safety sling.
- Engineering (modification) requests are to be submitted for any alterations to be completed on sheave brackets to install safety cables.
- Crew must keep Job Safety Analysis (JSAs) current.
- Crew Safety Meetings will be scheduled to review serious incidents such as this.

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.