



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 99-14

## RIGGING DOWN SAFETY

### WHAT HAPPENED:

During rig-down, all sections of the mast had been dismantled and only the lower sections remained pinned to the sub base in a horizontal position. Three employees were working to remove the pin from the raising line yoke to remove the line. All were wearing fall protection equipment. In order to avoid damaging the pin threads, one of the employees decided to hammer the pin out. He unhooked his safety harness so he could descend through the standpipes. As he stepped on the lower standpipe, 11.5 ft. (3.5 m) from the ground, he lost his grip and fell to the ground. He suffered a concussion and fracture of the right wrist.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Failure to follow procedures as employee took short cut without considering the potential risk.
2. Experience with the task caused complacency and resulted in short cuts.
3. Failure to properly use personal protective equipment.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Hold safety meetings with all crews stressing hazards and need for fall protection when working at height.
2. Personnel should be trained in the proper use and care of fall protection equipment.
3. When working at an unprotected height of 10 ft. (3 m) or more, a fall arrest system must be used (NOTE: Some companies set this height at six ft. -- 1.8 m -- or lower).
4. A Job Safety Analysis should be completed for each task and properly communicated to each employee affected. Information on performing JSAs is contained in the *IADC Accident Prevention Reference Guide*.

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**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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