



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 99-20

UNLOADING CASING ELEVATORS

WHAT HAPPENED:

While preparing to run casing on an offshore platform, the order was given to bring a basket containing the casing tools to the V-door using the crane. The basket was positioned at floor level, suspended by the crane. The plan was to use the air tugger line to pull out the casing elevators. When the air tugger was used to lift the elevators from the suspended basket, the elevator handles momentarily caught on the V-door post. When the elevators broke loose, they swung in toward the rig floor and pinned the driller against the/his console. The driller sustained injuries to his hip and abdomen.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. To save time, the basket was suspended by the crane to allow quick access to the tools.
2. Supervisors on the platform allowed this procedure to occur, violating company safety policies.
3. A tag line was not used to secure the casing elevators while they were being lifted.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Supervisors should never allow shortcuts and unsafe procedures to save time.
2. In this case, the basket should have been positioned on the catwalk and unlatched from the crane. Each item should be picked up individually by the tugger line and pulled up close to the V-door ramp prior to being brought to rig floor.
3. Taglines for all loads are a must. Always use taglines on crane lifts. Lifts from outside the rig floor using the tugger lines must also have taglines. (This does not include picking up joints of drill pipe while drilling.)
4. Crews working on the floor should be made aware of lifting operations around them.

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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