



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 99-28

HYDRAULIC TELESCOPING CYLINDER FAILURE

WHAT HAPPENED:

While rigging up a telescoping mast, one of the two cylinders failed and the mast dropped. No injuries resulted.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Air in the hydraulic cylinder caused the cylinder to fail, leaving the weight to be supported by the other cylinder. The other cylinder could not handle the weight and the mast dropped.
2. New personnel, unfamiliar with all the required steps, were in charge.
3. Inadequate supervision was a contributing factor.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. The company involved stated that procedures should be followed where the crew must go through a series of steps to adequately bleed the air out of the cylinder. In addition, it is recommended that manufacturer guidelines be followed.
2. Only trained personnel should perform the series of steps to adequately bleed the air out of the cylinder and then telescope the mast.
3. Proper supervision should be provided.

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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