



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 99-36

TRAVELING BLOCK/POWER SWIVEL COLLISION WITH STAND OF PIPE

WHAT HAPPENED:

A fully retracted travelling block and power swivel, during its descent, collided with the top of a stand of pipe being held by the derrick pipe handling machine (PHM) at well center. This event resulted in three retaining bolts shearing on the Power Swivel bell guide and a spacer plate weighing 3 lbs. (1.35 kg.) falling to the drill floor from a height of 93 feet (27.9 m).

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. A faulty solenoid valve in the upper arm of the PHM caused the arm to inadvertently extend by 16" (40 cm).
2. The extension of the upper arm pushed the stand of drill pipe into the path of the descending retracted Power Swivel.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. The contractor ceased simultaneous travelling block movement with pipe at well center, pending further investigations/actions.
2. Lugs were welded to spacer plates to allow the installation of dedicated safety lines.

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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Issued December 1999