



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 00-05

BATTERY PACK FALLS FROM LIGHT FIXTURE IN DERRICK

WHAT HAPPENED:

A nickel-cadmium battery pack from the derrick light fixture fell approximately 150 feet (45 m), from above the monkey board to the skid deck. The batteries weighed collectively 2.2 lbs. (1kg) and fell as two pieces. No one was injured.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The investigation determined that recent adverse weather had created a large amount of vibration within the fitting, causing the retaining mechanism for the battery pack to fail.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Derricks equipped with this type of light fittings should be checked to ensure the integrity of the battery retaining system.
2. Consideration should be given to securing the battery pack to the light fitting using tie-wraps or other restraints, particularly if the fixture is regularly exposed to extreme weather conditions.
3. The manufacturer should be consulted for alternative securing arrangements.

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.
Copyright © 2000 International Association of Drilling Contractors. All Rights Reserved

Issued February 2000