



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 00-10

WORKER KILLED BY WIRELINE SPOOL UNIT

WHAT HAPPENED:

A worker was killed when he was crushed between the spokes of a wireline drum and a cross member of the spool stand.

His body was found in a position in which it was depressing the control lever in the spool-out position, causing the pneumatic motor to rotate the drum. The control lever was attached to the cross member (center of inserted circle in photo at right).



WHAT CAUSED IT:

There were no witnesses to the incident, and an exact cause has not been determined. The individual may have inadvertently activated the control, he may not have been aware he was in a dangerous position, or the umbilical may have been pulled during a separate operation. A possible contributing factor was that there was no guard on the control lever to prevent accidental activation, nor was there guarding to prevent personnel from becoming entangled between the spokes and cross braces of the stand.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Potential trap points of the spool stands should be adequately guarded (mesh on the frame or mesh/plating the segments of the drum sides between the spokes) to prevent employees from accidentally placing themselves in harms way.
2. Control levers should be guarded against accidental operation.
3. Locking pins or brakes should be fitted and utilized to prevent the spool from rotating when idle.
4. Air supply should be isolated or disconnected when spool is not in operation.
5. A Work Permit should be issued when maintenance is being conducted on the spooling device. The Work Permit should include the use of Lock-Out / Tag-Out procedures.
6. A Job Safety Analysis (JSA) and Pre-Job Safety Meeting should be conducted to ensure good communication between the rig crew and personnel operating or maintaining the spool.

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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