



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 00-27

AUXILIARY BRAKE

WHAT HAPPENED:

Prior to "Stage 2" of a cement job, the blocks were raised above the casing stump and locked into position using the Auxiliary Brake with the elevators remaining attached; the stump was approximately 13 feet (4m) above the rig floor and the brake was not chained down

During the cement job, the motorman proceeded to rig out part of the rig and disconnected the glycol system for the auxiliary brake. This action caused the air pressure to dissipate causing the Auxiliary brake to become disengaged. The blocks started to come down, hit the collar of the casing and laid over into the derrick.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The Driller left his position without ensuring that his equipment was secure.
- The blocks fell due to the brake handle not being chained down.
- The Driller did not recognize the potential hazard as being serious enough to chain down the brake handle.
- Driller depended on the auxiliary brake as a substitute for the brake handle.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

Policies and procedures are to be followed. These guidelines are in place to protect the individual from incident and harm and to maintain a safe work environment through proper maintenance and choice of equipment.

Function of auxiliary brake is:

- To slow the descent of the blocks.
- To be used as a brake in extreme cases of emergency e.g. brake failure etc.

The auxiliary brake is not to be used as a replacement for the brake/ brake handle

Shortcuts, overlooking proper work procedure(s) and not following directives will eventually result in an incident.

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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