



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 00-28

NEAR MISS – ANTI-TWO BLOCKING DEVICES

WHAT HAPPENED:

A crane operator was booming down the crane onto the boom rest. As he was lowering the boom, the main block jammed against the sheaves and broke the 5/8" line. The traveling block fell to one side of the rig. No injuries resulted.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

It appeared that the crane operator was focused on the boom as it descended toward the boom rest and did not notice the blocks coming close to the end of the boom. His lack of attention to the boom tip and blocks allowed the two to come to gather and break the cable.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Personnel become focused on other things and at times forget to watch the whole job -- it's called a mental lapse.
 - Sometimes training helps to prevent the lapse.
 - Experience might also help; however,
 - Having a safety device like this ensures that everything is in place to prevent a problem. The anti-two block protection device for the crane boom is a protection device just as the crown protection device on the rig's drawworks. Both are very important to working safely.
- All cranes should have anti-two blocking devices (limit switch) installed and operational to prevent two blocking.
- Lowering the boom into the cradle should be a two-man job. One runs the crane and one spots.

Don't assume the job is an easy one simply because you've done it a thousand times!

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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