



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 00-35

## MISSED STAND OF DRILLPIPE CAUSES AN LTI

### WHAT HAPPENED:

While running in the hole with 3- ½” drill pipe, the floorman who was relieving the derrickman, missed latching a stand and it fell across the derrick. As the derrickman returned to the board, the driller and a floorman wrapped an air hoist cable around the stand to pull it back to the derrickboard. The stand had wedged between a derrick beam causing some problems in getting the stand to come loose. The stand of pipe finally came free and whipped across the derrick striking the offside foot stand. This caused the foot stand to hinge upward, striking the derrickman in the left leg. The derrickman suffered a broken leg.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

Crews determined through the investigation that:

- When pulling a stand back across the derrick by wrapping the air winch line around the stand, the stand may whip uncontrollably when it comes free.
- Derrickman hurried to assist and moved to the edge of the board before the stand was back in place.
- Communication between the driller and the monkey board was a problem.
- No pin was present for locking the foot stand in place.
- No JSA had been performed on this job.
- No pre-job meeting was held to discuss the hazards.
- Training had not been done on how to safely perform the job of retrieving the missed stand.
- Relief personnel working the derrick board, may not have been as able to latch the elevators on a stand as the experienced derrickman.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

To prevent an injury during an operation, personnel must take into consideration the potential outcome of each step and then plan how to eliminate the exposure. When personnel realize this fact and begin analyzing the job ahead of time accidents can be prevented.

- When relief personnel are working the derrick board, the driller should not operate the rig any faster than the relief person's ability to latch the elevators on stands of pipe.
- Crews should review alternative means to pull back a stand:
  - Mule line from the board;
  - Shackle a pre-made chain (or cable) loop around the stand at the floor. Then shackle a 70' length of cable to the loop and anchor the length of cable to the winch base. The winch hoist line is then shackled to the loop and the loop hoisted. As the loop travels up the stand it will slowly pull the stand free from the back side of the derrick and stand it vertically preventing the whipping action;
- An experienced air winch operator should operate the air hoist / winch.
- When dropped stands are pulled back with a rig floor air winch, they will often whip, therefore, crewmen should not move to the edge of the board until the stand has been pulled back and has stopped moving.

**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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