



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 44

BOP OVERHEAD CRANE WIRE LINE FAILURE

WHAT HAPPENED:

During a recent Nipling Down and repositioning of the 21 ¼ BOP from the wellhead to the stump the BOP Winch Line (the overhead crane) parted allowing the top of the BOP to fall towards the broken line direction. Fortunately the BOP had not been lifted high and the bottom of the BOP lodged in the ground preventing it from flipping over. The other overhead crane cable was unaffected and a safety sling was fitted to this unit as an extra precaution while it was taking all the weight. There was no injury to personnel. There was however damage to flexible control hose from the HCR to the choke manifold requiring the hose to be replaced.

WHAT CAUSED IT: Investigation Findings

- Wire line was used as per the original specifications.
- A lifting equipment inspection was conducted by a third party lifting equipment inspection company. The inspector claims that after the inspection he told the Rig Manager that this line was damaged and needed to be changed out. The Rig Manager claims he was not made aware of a damaged line.
 - The two copies of the report for the above inspection were provided however critical information within the reports were different:
 - The paper version said “The inspection of the above equipment was found to be in satisfactory condition”.
 - The electronic version said “The Wire Rope was found damaged (need to be replaced before commencing any lifting operation”.
- There was no evidence of any Pre Job Meeting held prior to commencing the Nipling Down operation.
- There was no recorded evidence that periodic or pre job inspection including Monthly PMS routines had been completed on the failed line
- The failed line was in poor condition and should have been identified as a hazard between the inspection date and the incident date.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company issued the following:

- The third party inspection company is to check all inspection reports for all other rigs for accuracy and relevance.
- The third party inspection company is to develop a paper trail which will be signed immediately after the inspection is complete by the Rig Manager acknowledging the inspection carried out and any discrepancies and/or recommend actions to be taken as a result of the inspection.
- Rig Superintendent, Rig Managers to reinforce the importance of Pre Tour/Pre Job meeting and the need to maintain a record of these meetings conducted.
- Add inspection criteria to Rig Manager Weekly Inspection for wire lines on Overhead BOP Cranes.
- Enforce Monthly Planned Maintenance routines for Overhead BOP cranes.
- Adopt a 12 month “Out of Service” date when wire lines for BOP Overhead Cranes are changed out regardless of its condition at the time.

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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Figure 1 – Overhead Crane Set-up



Figure 1 – Anchor end approx 10 foot.



Figure 3 – Parted line

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