



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 05 – 04

## FALL FROM MONKEY BOARD RESULTS IN A FATALITY

### WHAT HAPPENED:

The Assistant Driller (AD) had gone to the Monkeyboard via the Derrick ladder to assist the Derrickman to raise a work platform that the Derrickman could not lift completely vertical. The work platform was located on top of the segment of fingers on the Driller's side. At the time of the incident the rig was pulling out of the hole in preparation to run 10¾ casing. The platform needed to be raised so they could rack back the last 37 stands on that side making more room on the rig floor to run casing. 95 stands were already racked back on the off drillers side.

Once at the Monkey Board the Assistant Driller proceeded to the work platform, the Derrickman tended to his lines for the drill pipe rack in the off Driller's side. Approximately 10 minutes later the Assistant Driller called for the Derrickman to help him raise the platform. The Assistant Driller was in the middle of the fingers when the Derrickman positioned his left foot on the rear Monkey Board beam and his right foot on the fingers to lift the platform. The Assistant Driller had apparently managed to remove both pins from the platform which also held the fingers. This allowed the platform to be dislodged. When the segment of fingers and platform gave way and the Derrickman and the AD fell. The Derrickman was wearing a fall restraint, which stopped his fall under the Monkey Board. The AD died after he fell approximately 85 feet to the rig floor.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

Although still under investigation, the initial investigation has revealed that.

- The deceased was wearing a full harness but was not attached to any form of fall arrest or restraint.
- The Monkeyboard was fitted with a fall arrestor, which was being used by the Derrickman. There was no other fall arrestor available for use.
- The work platform could not be raised to the full vertical position because the backside of the pad eyes fitted to the platform came into contact with the Monkey board-supporting beam when the platform was raised to about a 45 deg angle.
- The work platform had recently been modified when new fingers were fabricated and fitted.
- The two pins holding the walk platform also supported the segment of fingers. It is possible that when looking from above, the pins were viewed as being for the platform only with the fingers being part of the main Monkeyboard structure. This pin set up is as per original manufacture design.
- It appears the Assistant Driller removed both pins in an attempt to raise the platform.
- It appears the Derrickman who was securing the drill pipe rack in the off Driller's side was called in to help by the Assistant Driller to raise the platform and may have unbalanced the unpinned fingers and platform causing them to fall.
- The Assistant Driller was on the Monkey Board for approximately 15 minutes but at no stage was the deceased told to attach a fall restraint.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** To address this incident, this company issued the following Learning/Corrective Actions so far:

- Constant reinforcement stressing the importance of wearing the correct PPE and fall protection at heights.
- Constant reinforcement that all employees have the right to intervene or stop the job if it is not safe or covered by adequate controls.
- Review all Monkey Board operations on all company rigs.
- Ensure all company rigs are fitted with a secondary fall arrestor system on the Monkey Board.
- Develop procedures indicating all modifications are to be approved and tested prior to being put back into service.
- Review pin set up so that pins cannot be inadvertently removed.

**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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View showing that one pin held both the grating and the finger assembly.



Side view of grating and Fingers attachment.



Re-enactment of backside of pad eye rubbing at 45 deg angle. Actual restriction was on Monkey board beam.

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