



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 11

FALL / OPEN HOLE, LTI INCIDENT

WHAT HAPPENED:

A Night Toolpusher climbed a rig floor fixed ladder to the Top Drive System (TDS) walkway located above the Drawworks in order to inspect the TDS. He stepped back into the ladder access opening (open hole) and fell approximately 5 meters (approximately 16 feet), landing on the rig floor below. The landing resulted in a fracture to the left arm and various cuts & abrasions.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The ladder opening that provided access to the walkway did not have a hatch to secure the open hole and protective barriers were not in place to prevent a fall through this opening. (No signage displayed to indicate the fall potential)
- The injured person chose not to wear a full body harness and did not utilize any type of fall protection even though the fixed ladder had a ladder safety system that included a fall arrest system installed.
- The lack of a formal risk assessment allowed this identifiable hazard to go unrecognized and actions were not taken to mitigate the risk to anywhere close to an acceptable or even tolerable level. (JRA)
- A complete lack of individual / personal risk assessment as the employee commenced this particular task.
- The employee displayed an unacceptable level of risk tolerance.

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

As a result of this incident, immediate remedial actions have been implemented to prevent a reoccurrence. Sadly once again this is merely a reactive measure to an incident which should never have happened in the first place. We must be **proactive** and **manage our safety** effectively by using the training and safety tools available to us. Clearly the outcome could have been much more tragic and the lesson to be learned is clear. Do not take shortcuts and remember no matter how straight forward or simple a task might appear, if you do not consider the consequences and correctly eliminate the obvious risk then we cannot expect to control the outcome.



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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