ALERT 06 – 40

42 INCH DRIVE DOWN ADAPTER FALLS TO RIG FLOOR
RESULTING IN A FATALITY

WHAT HAPPENED:

A rig had finished driving a threaded connection 42 inch conductor pipe to 282 ft. below the mud line (BML) utilizing a third party hydraulic hammer. Prior to rigging down the hammer, a pre-job meeting was held. After which, the crew commenced rigging down the hammer. Slings were attached to the 12,000 lb. x 14 ft. drive down adapter and it was lifted out of the conductor pipe using the rig's traveling block. Soon after clearing the conductor pipe, the adapter separated from its lifting plate and fell 9 ft. to the rig floor. It contacted the edge of the 42 inch box before landing on the rig floor toward the starboard forward corner. One floorman was struck on his right side by the adapter while trying to escape, sustaining injuries that subsequently proved to be fatal. Another floorman injured his right foot while escaping from the path of the adapter.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The welded-on lifting cap separated from the drive down adapter.

2. An investigation as to why the adapter separated is underway.

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

1. Both drive down adapters of this design have been removed from service pending further investigation.

2. Assign and reinforce accountability to ensure that all reasonable precautions have been taken to verify that customer provided 3rd party equipment meets applicable codes and is installed correctly on rigs.

3. As always when lifting heavy loads, use tag lines and air winches to position them to provide an additional buffer area for personnel.

4. Job Safety Analysis (JSAs) and Pre-Job meeting checklists should be reviewed and amended as appropriate.

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.