



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 07 – 29

## PERSONNEL HOIST STUCK IN “HOIST” POSITION

### WHAT HAPPENED:

During operations to slip and cut drilling line, crewman was being hoisted on a Personnel Hoist to remove a dead man centralizer on the drilling line. The directional control handle on the Personnel Hoist became detached causing a loss of control of the winch in the hoisting mode. To prevent further uncontrolled ascent, the air isolation valve was closed, shutting off the air supply to the winch. The control handle was reinstalled and operations resumed.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The Personnel Hoist was not inspected before use.
- Safety meeting (JSA) did not include inspection of the winch’s operating lever.
- The Personnel Hoist was not included on the Preventive Maintenance list.
- Not everyone knew where the air isolation valve was located.

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

Rig Supervisors remember:

This incident shows the importance of the company’s Preventive Maintenance Program and everyone knowing the safety systems designed into every piece of equipment.

- It is important to include the Personnel Hoist and other winches in the PM program. Be sure to add “Inspect condition and check operation of control lever” to the rig’s hoisting equipment PM Program.
- Operators should do a visual inspection of the Personnel Hoist before operating.
- Everyone needs to know where the air supply isolation valve is located. The newer Personnel Hoists come with an air supply isolation valve and remote isolation valve (the driller’s console would be a good location for the backup isolation valve). Include the location of the air supply isolation valve in your pre-job safety meetings involving the Personnel Hoist activities.
- Hold Pre-Job safety meeting (JSA) before hoisting personnel. In the safety meeting it is important to consider:
  - The unexpected can and will happen.
  - Consider the worse thing that can happen in carrying out the tasks with the equipment being used.

Visually inspect your hoisting equipment on a daily basis and each time before lifting

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**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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