



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 07 – 37

EMPLOYEE FALLS FROM DERRICK BOARD

WHAT HAPPENED:

The crew stopped tripping in the hole to fill the pipe. The rig is a cold weather rig equipped with a "warming hut" on the derrick board. Filling the pipe was going to take about fifteen minutes so the derrickman unhooked his positioning rope and entered the warming hut. The derrickman stated he disconnected his positioning rope so he could close the hut door. After the pipe was filled he heard the blocks running up and exited the hut to get a stand of drill pipe. When he left the hut, the derrickman forgot to reattach the derrick board positioning rope to his harness. As he reached to latch the drill pipe in the elevators, he fell from the derrick board. His fall was arrested by the board's self retracting lifeline (i.e., SRL) which left him hanging below the derrick board. The crew swung the air hoist line to him and he was able to get his feet on the weighted ball and get back on the board. The SRL and harness were replaced and taken out of service due to the impact.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Following the incident the derrickman stated he was preoccupied with a personal issue and did not have his mind on the job at hand.
- The derrickman worked derricks for 2.5 years; however even this experience did not ensure he performed his job properly.
- The trip was not a "typical job" for these crewmembers. Two crewmembers did not show up for work therefore, the crew "switched" positions. The man who fell from the board was actually the driller (DR). The rig manager (RM) was running the rig.
- The driller (RM) did not ensure either visually or verbally that the derrickman (DR) was properly tied off before the blocks left the rig floor.
- The heater in the hut was not working and a previous derrickman had unplugged the communication system to use his own 110 volt heater. When his hitch was over he removed his heater and did not plug-in the communication system.
- The derrickman (DR) that fell was complacent and did not investigate why the communication system was not working.
- The derrickman (DR) removed his positioning rope so he could close the door to the warming hut. It was stated this is common practice as the design of the door does not allow it to close "around" the rope. The derrickman (DR) DID NOT remove his SRL as the cable is thin enough to allow the door to close with it attached.

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

- It is absolutely critical to concentrate on the job at hand.
- At a minimum the Safe Work Procedures Handbook requires the driller to review a JSA for **ALL** trips with crewmembers emphasizing hazard recognition for the different procedures involved in tripping the drill string.
- Special precautions must be taken for jobs performed by individuals working outside their normal roles.
- The company's Safe Work Procedures Handbook requires the driller to ensure at any time during tripping operations that when the derrickman leaves then reenters the board area he must ensure that he is properly tied off and ready for tripping operations to resume.
- The company's "Driller's Ten Commandments" first commandment mandates:
 - *Thou shall never raise the blocks above the rig floor until **you** confirm the derrickman is properly attached to fall restraint. **Check both visually and verbally, use your eyes and the***

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
Copyright © 2005 International Association of Drilling Contractors All rights reserved.

Issued December 2007



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

communication box. *This procedure shall be followed every time there is break in the tripping process such as breaking circulation or any time the derrickman leaves the board area.*

- Additionally, employees working on the rig floor during trips or any time personnel are in the derrick, they should assist the driller in monitoring the derrickman's activities.
- Rig equipment such as the communication system should **NEVER** be disabled. Provisions must be made to ensure nonfunctioning equipment such as the heater and the communication system are working or scheduled for repair. Formal Action Items must be written and entered in the Action Item Tracking Database to ensure repairs are completed. Alternative management controls/precautions **must be** implemented in the event equipment cannot be repaired prior to initiating work.
- Warming huts should be designed to allow the door to close with the positioning rope attached.

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

Copyright © 2005 International Association of Drilling Contractors All rights reserved.

Issued December 2007