



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 09 – 17

NEAR MISS—NEW FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT FAILURE

WHAT HAPPENED:

A derrickman was working in the derrick and was using a **NEW** “Pass through Tie-Off Adapter” for his fall protection anchor point. The tie-off adapter in this case was a 3” web sling, 2 feet long. The adapter is wrapped around a beam or other secure tie-off point and one end passes through the other “choking” the anchor point. The lanyard is then attached to a full body harness d-ring.

The derrickman had tied-off and then leaned out to perform his work. The tie-off adapter “broke”, however, the derrickman was able to catch hold of the pipe to keep from falling out of the derrick.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Inspection of the tie-off adapter revealed that the D-ring end of the sling had not been fully assembled. The webbing material end had been folded around the D-ring and hot glued, but had not been stitched. Follow-up inspections revealed that four out of the five tie-off adapters the company had purchased were defective.

Several opportunities were missed to catch this mistake:

- 1) The manufacturer failed to catch the defect during its quality control inspections;
- 2) The supplier receiving the slings from the manufacturer also failed to inspect them before selling them;
- 3) The receiving agent didn't inspect upon receiving them;
- 4) The Safety Advisor distributed the defective slings to the rig without inspecting them;
- 5) The Rig Manager stored the slings in his office until needed and failed to inspect them before use;
- 6) The Derrickman, which was the last chance to catch the error, began using the fall protection equipment without first inspecting it.
- 7) Inspections did not happen because personnel involved accepted that new equipment was in good condition without defects.

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

The company emphasized to all rig personnel that they must be the final check of all safety equipment. The extra minute or two you spend inspecting equipment before using it (new or used), may save you or a co-worker from serious harm.

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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