



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 09 – 24

TRIPPING OPERATION RESULTS IN A HIGH-POTENTIAL NEAR MISS

WHAT HAPPENED:

After the derrick man unlatched the elevators to rack back a stand of drill pipe, the driller started to lower the top drive system down before ensuring that the drill pipe had cleared the top drive. The back-up wrench caught the edge of the box of the top joint of drill pipe, causing the drill pipe to slightly bow and spring forward. It was determined that one of the elevator link tilt adjustments on the top drive had slipped to a position which made it difficult for the derrickman to open the elevators as the arms did not move past the back-up wrench under normal operations. No injury or damage resulted.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Lowering the top drive system before ensuring the drill pipe was clear of the top drive.
- Communications between personnel was disrupted due to loss of visual contact.
- Training was not adequate with the crew.
- Preventative maintenance was not sufficient.

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

- The operation was stopped and a safety meeting was held with the drilling crew.
- Visual contact, communication and regular maintenance checks were stressed in the safety meeting.
- The elevator links were adjusted to the proper position and painted above and below the clamps as a visual reference to ensure proper adjustment.
- A Job Safety Analysis related to the activity must be reviewed by all crew members involved in the activity prior to any job taking place.

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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