



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 09 – 33

PICKING UP DRILL COLLARS RESULTS IN LTI

WHAT HAPPENED:

While picking up 6 ½” drill collars two 3” X 12” X 36” planks were placed on the catwalk to facilitate removal of the crane slings. When the rig floor hoist picked up the box end, the pin end of the drill collar was resting on a piece of wood (3” high) which made the drill collar ½” higher than the 2 ½ inch angle iron rail edge of the catwalk. As the box end of the collar was being pulled up the beaver slide (pipe/tool slide) to the rig floor, the pin end of the drill collar rolled off the board and over the angle iron then off the cat walk. The drill collar struck the roustabout from behind breaking his arm. The injured roustabout had turned his back to the drill collar and was preparing to connect the crane slings onto another collar on the pipe rack. (see the photo)

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The catwalk is designed for post stops to be installed on each end and in the center section. Posts were installed on each end but none was installed in the center section.
- The crew members failed to recognize the possibility that the pipe might roll off once the pin end of the drill collar was pulled past the first post.
- Crewmembers also failed to recognize the unsafe position of the injured employee while the pipe was being pulled up the beaver slide.
- The deck supervisor, crane operator, and other crewmen were in the immediate area but did not recognize the hazard.
- The JSA was only in English and not in the native language of the roustabouts.

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

- Instructed rig personnel that JSAs are to include hazards of turning your back to a load being hoisted whether it is by a crane or a rig floor hoist.
- Instructed rig personnel to stay out from between the catwalk and drill collars while a drill collar is being pulled up the beaver slide.
- Instructed supervisory personnel to keep focused on the big picture and the hazards involved. Do not become too “hands-on” or too preoccupied with the current task, but watch for hazards.
- Instructed supervisors to ensure personnel are clear of potential pinch points before a load is lifted.
- Instructed supervisors to ensure that when there are two main languages are spoken on the well site, the JSAs are to be created in both languages.



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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