



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 11 – 05

FALL INCIDENT DURING RIG UP RESULTS IN FATAL INJURIES

WHAT HAPPENED:

A drilling rig was being re-assembled on a new well location. The driller was working with a crane operator and another drilling rig employee to properly position the doghhouse on the rig platform. To ensure the doghhouse was in its proper position, the driller laid down on a folding work platform adjacent to the doghhouse. The platform had been placed on the rig supports, but was not secured in place. As the driller moved out onto this platform it tilted and fell, causing him to fall 5 meters (16.5 feet) with the platform landing on top of him. The other drilling rig employee immediately summoned help. The platform was removed from on top of the employee and first aid was rendered. Following arrival of the emergency services, the driller was confirmed to have died.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

The investigation team determined two key immediate causes for the fall:

- The platform that fell had been placed in position on the rig and left unsecured for a significant amount of time.
- Fall protection/PPE was not used, despite working on a ledge where the risk of a fall was 5 meters (16.5 feet).



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

Following the incident investigation and identification of root causes, the company made the following recommendations:

- Instructed rig personnel to ensure all tasks performed where there is a risk of falling more than 1.8 meters (5.9 feet) are completed using fall protection/PPE. This must be a “no exception” rule.
- Instructed rig supervisors to ensure appropriate rig supervision are provided at all times to ensure higher risk tasks are performed properly and with the appropriate controls in place to prevent incidents.
- Instructed rig personnel to utilize a rig specialist to check all existing rig structure elements in the Contract Drilling Group to ensure compliance with original manufacturers’ design specifications. Out of compliance changes will be identified and corrected through proper engineering design improvements.
- Implemented technical review audits of all rigs to ensure operational compliance to the established global standards.

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 February 2011