



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 11 – 29

PIPE USED AS ANCHORAGE POINT ON RIG FLOOR BECOMES A PROJECTILE

WHAT HAPPENED:

The drill crew was in the process of placing the Tubing Hanger Running Tool (THRT) back into its transporting/handling skid. The tool was being held by air winches to control swing due to rig motion and high winds. The port bow winch line was strung behind an approximately 12 inch (0.31 meters) hold-back pipe on the Port side V-door King post. This 18 pound (8.2 kilogram) hold back pipe is normally used during this type of operation. Due to the tool weight and motion, the hold-back pipe broke off, flying approximately 30 feet (9.1 meters) and striking the Chiksan® rack on the starboard wind wall. This action caused the THRT to swing and strike the transporting/handling skid, knocking it over. No one was injured but the pipe, which became a projectile as it broke off, passed within 4 feet (1.2 meters) of 3 different employees.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The hold-back pipes were installed before the industry practice of regular inspection of lifting devices, Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) or Non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE) inspections. Because it is not a pad eye or other similar device on the inspection list, it did not occur to anyone to add it to the inspection list. Although it had been treated as if it were a part of the V-Door King post, it was not. It had been added to the V-Door King post at least fifteen years ago.
2. The crew did not recognize that their use of an uncertified anchor point was a hazard, which meant that the crew did not add the pipe to the rig inspection list for annual certification.
3. The crew reviewed a JSA for laying down drill pipe riser prior to beginning the job. The JSA for the Drill Pipe Riser did not include handling the THRT. When the THRT appeared at the rotary table, the drill crew had a Tool Box Talk prior to picking up the THRT and placing it in its transport skid. However, the existing JSA was not revised nor was a new JSA written for picking up and handling the THRT. Revising the JSA to include this change might have made the crew aware of the way the THRT was handled and avoided the incident.
4. There was a job change and the JSA was not revised.



Port V-door King Post after the pipe broke.



Starboard V-Door King Post with identical pipe.
(This was removed after the incident.)

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 2011



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company instructed rig supervisors and personnel in the following:

1. Immediately conduct a Hazard Hunt on your rig for non-typical devices which are used as anchor points, lifting points or used to change direction of forces, such as an air hoist cable. If it can be qualified, add the device to the rig lifting-point inspection list, otherwise remove it immediately.
2. Review this incident with all crew members. Emphasize the importance of being alert to changes in the job. Remind them that a change in the job signals that it is time to stop the job, take a step back, and either revise the existing JSA or create a new JSA for the changes that are occurring.

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 2011