



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 11 – 18

DROPPED OBJECT - PIN FALLS FROM TOP DRIVE RESULTS IN A NEAR MISS

WHAT HAPPENED:

While laying down 5" Drill Pipe, the upper pin of the top drive link support assembly came loose and fell approximately 15-18 feet to the rig floor near the driller's side. No injury was reported.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The safety pin was sheared off allowing the upper pin to work its way loose and drop to the rig floor.

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

- Conduct routine scheduled inspection of all equipment that has a potential to drop from the derrick. Utilize the company "DROPS Prevention Scheme" checklist and complete a Dropped Object Management System (DOMS) Rig Inventory List. Attach pictures to the inventory list and retain in the rig file.
- Use safety pin with spring latch instead of using nuts similar to the ones used in 350 ton top drive.
- Develop a JSA to be used when conducting the top drive routine inspection check.
- Reference the following internal documents
 - Dropped Object Management System (DOMS)
 - Job Safety Analysis
 - Top drive manufacture's (OEM) operating manual
 - Perform monthly inspections

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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