



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 07 – 01

DERRICKMAN FALLS ACROSS DERRICK

WHAT HAPPENED:

The rig had been circulating off bottom and was about to trip back to bottom. While the driller was setting back the Kelly and the crew was preparing for tripping operations, the derrickman went to the derrick board and connected his Safety Retracting Lifeline, but failed to connect his tail lanyard. When the derrickman attempted to latch the elevators he realized that he had not attached his lanyard. He grasped the elevator horns and was lifted off the board. As the elevators cleared the stand, he warped his legs around the stand and rode it across the derrick. He was able to grasp the bridle line and get himself on a derrick beam and then back onto the derrick ladder.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Derrickman failed to connect his tail lanyard.
2. The driller did not follow company policy that required that he check with the derrickman to ensure that the derrickman was completely tied off before he raised the elevators to the derrick board.

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

1. Toolpushers were instructed to hold and document safety meetings with all crew members on the company 100% tie-off policy.
2. Company safety personnel are to visit all rigs and perform practical fall protection training with all personnel, and to leave training materials with toolpushers for training new personnel. Safety department is to develop annual training
3. All drillers were informed that they are responsible to ensure that this training is carried out for all new personnel.
4. Drillers and derrickmen were instructed to develop a communication tool to ensure that the derrickman is fully tied off. For example, once the derrickman is fully tied off, he can come to the end of the board and turn sideways with his hand on the tail rope and give the thumbs up sign. Then the derrickman is to put one hand on the SRL attachment and give the thumbs up signal with the other hand.
5. All rig floor personnel were instructed to check that the derrickman has connected his SRL and tail lanyard.
6. Company Safety Representatives and Drilling Superintendents were instructed to inspect every derrick to ensure that SRL and tail lanyards were installed properly. They were also instructed to inform all employees not to move or remove any fall protection devices from the derrick.
7. **Issued the following policy:** The derrick climber is to be used for climbing to the derrick board where the derrickman is to attach his derrick SRL before disconnecting from the climber device. He is then move to the back of the derrickboard and connect his tail rope. Once this is completed, he is to signal the driller that he is 100% connected. **Tripping into the hole:** The blocks are not to leave the floor until the driller knows without a doubt that the derrickman is tied off with his tail rope and SRL. **Tripping out of the hole:** There are times when the pipe must be kept moving. Realizing this, it is company policy that the pipe can be moved, but the blocks should preferably never pass the derrick board until the driller clearly knows that the derrickman is properly tied off and his SRL is attached. **The driller shall never set the slips to break a connection until the driller clearly knows that the derrickman is 100% tied off.** **Note:** Steps shall be repeated when stopping to break circulation or change of action (personnel) has taken 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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