



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 08 – 05

## FALL FROM SCAFFOLDING RESULTS IN EMPLOYEE INJURY

### WHAT HAPPENED:

Two employees were attempting to install a mud bucket drain hose from the flow line to underneath the rig floor. Standing on the BOP scaffolding which had been installed prior to their shift, the two men found the hose connection to be just out of reach. Both men attached their lanyards onto scaffolding handrails. One man was attached to the handrail on the back piece of scaffolding and the other man to the handrail on the side piece of scaffolding. The men then climbed up onto the handrail on the side piece of scaffolding and reached out to couple the hose. Without warning, the side piece of scaffolding flipped, and fell to the ground. The employee whose lanyard was attached to the handrail on this piece of scaffolding was pulled approximately 15' to the ground with the scaffolding (See pictures below). The employee suffered a severe laceration to his head, fractured vertebrae in his back and neck as well as three broken ribs. The other man grabbed nearby air lines to prevent himself falling. He then pulled himself back onto the remaining scaffolding avoiding injury.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The employees did not utilize any of the three safety retracting lifeline blocks mounted within arms reach in the substructure. (See pictures below.)
2. The two men did not tie-off to a secure anchor point. The employees had a false sense of security when they attached their lanyards to handrails.
3. Both employees climbed the handrails to access the work area.
4. The scaffolding is equipped with chain hoists at each corner to properly position the work platform. The employees did not take the time to raise the platform which would have enabled them to perform the job safely.
5. The scaffolding assembly was put together but not 100% assembled. The side scaffolding was not bolted to the front and rear scaffolding to secure it as designed.
6. A pre-job meeting was not conducted prior to starting the job. As such the potential hazards were not identified or addressed.
7. The mud bucket drain hose was not installed prior to raising the rig floor.
8. The bolt holes for securing the scaffolding are difficult to line up. Additionally, the location of the bolt holes/bolts makes it difficult to visually observe and ensure the assembly is secure. Bolt threads are easily damaged due to mud, dirt and corrosion.

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

1. These devices are installed and available to protect our employees and prevent injuries. Safety retracting lifeline blocks are to be utilized when conducting this type of work.
2. Handrails are NOT secure anchor points.
3. Handrails are NOT ladders and should NEVER be climbed.
4. Crews must take the time needed to ensure work is completed in a safe manner.
5. When installing any equipment such as scaffolding, be sure the installation is complete before moving onto the next job.
6. Pre-job meetings MUST be conducted prior to non-routine jobs such as this to make sure: 1) all hazards are identified and addressed; 2) proper instruction is provided and; 3) the job is not rushed.
7. Assemble ALL possible hoses and lines prior to raising the rig floor.
8. The securing mechanism is being redesigned to simplify securing the scaffolding together to insure the walkways are secure and provide employees a more visible means for ensuring it is secured. Pins with keepers should be considered instead of bolts as it's easier to drive a pin with a hammer.

**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.**

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9. These incidents will continue to occur unless we **STOP AND THINK**.
10. ALL employees have the responsibility to observe fellow crew members and **STOP UNSAFE ACTS IMMEDIATELY** and teach the correct procedure and sequence.

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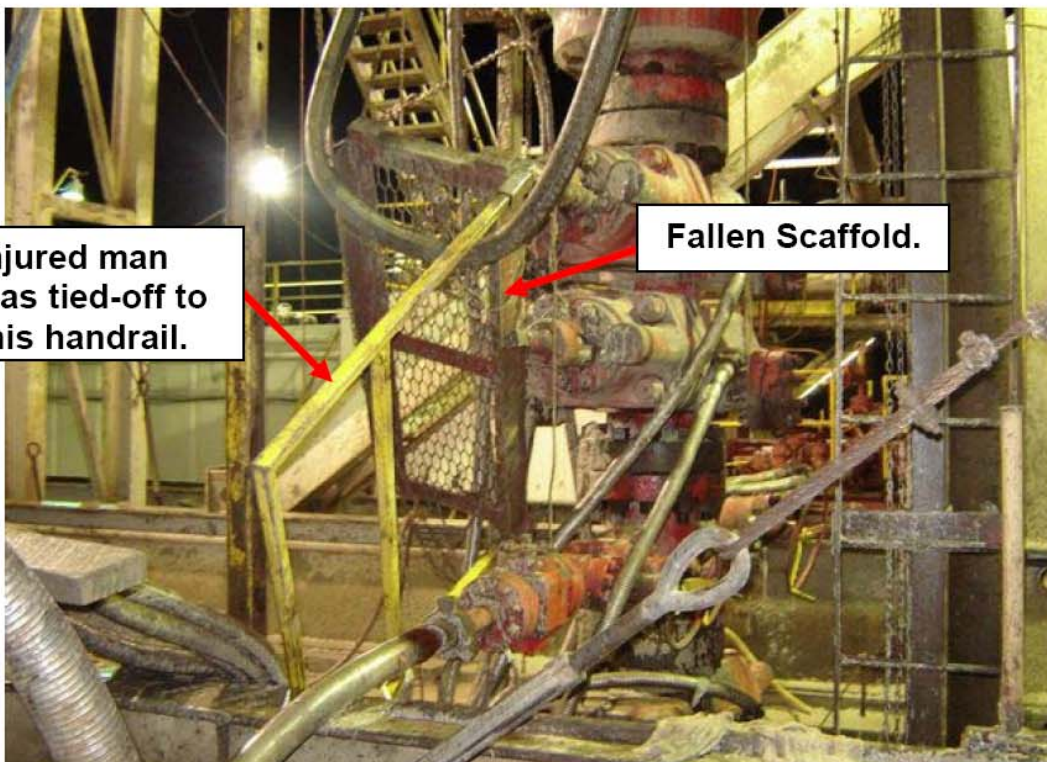
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Three SALA Blocks Hanging in the Sub

The scaffolding is a floating design. The walkways are scoped up or down on tracks on the four corners.



Injured man was tied-off to this handrail.

Fallen Scaffold.

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