



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 08 – 11

IMPROPER USE OF ELEVATORS WITH TOP DRIVE ASSEMBLY

WHAT HAPPENED:

During a visit to an operating rig, the Top-drive Technician observed the elevators being used in the incorrect position (backwards) during tripping operations. This occurred despite the fact that he had given instructions on the proper use explained the top drive system (TDS) in detail to the rig crew the previous day.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The Driller chose to re-install the elevators incorrectly (backwards) in order to extend the link tilts out further for the derrick man while racking back pipe. In order for this configuration to be operated, the following steps needed to be performed:

- The elevators had to have been manually removed, turned 180 degrees and re-installed. The Driller would then be in a position to rotate the handler 180 degrees allowing the link tilt to extend further out (Drilling mode).
- The safety system which triggers the warning alarm at 60 feet (18 meters) above the rig floor and then triggers the braking system at 70 feet (21 meters) above the rig floor in order to prevent the TDS from ever reaching the monkey board level when the links are in the drilling position was switched off.

In doing the above steps, the Driller knowingly violated procedures, -by-passed a safety device and put the equipment and more importantly, the safety of the Crew at serious risk.

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

- The job was immediately stopped by the top-drive technician. He explained again how the TDS needs to be set up for tripping and why. He then supervised the crew to ensure that the TDS was set up properly in the tripping mode and the safety warning device enabled.
- A behavioral observation card was written and handed into the Rig Supervisor and rig Top-drive Supervisor.
- The rig Top-drive Supervisor then spoke to the Field Superintendent and explained the situation. The Field Superintendent then immediately called the Rig Manager to ensure the proper procedures are being maintained and enforced.

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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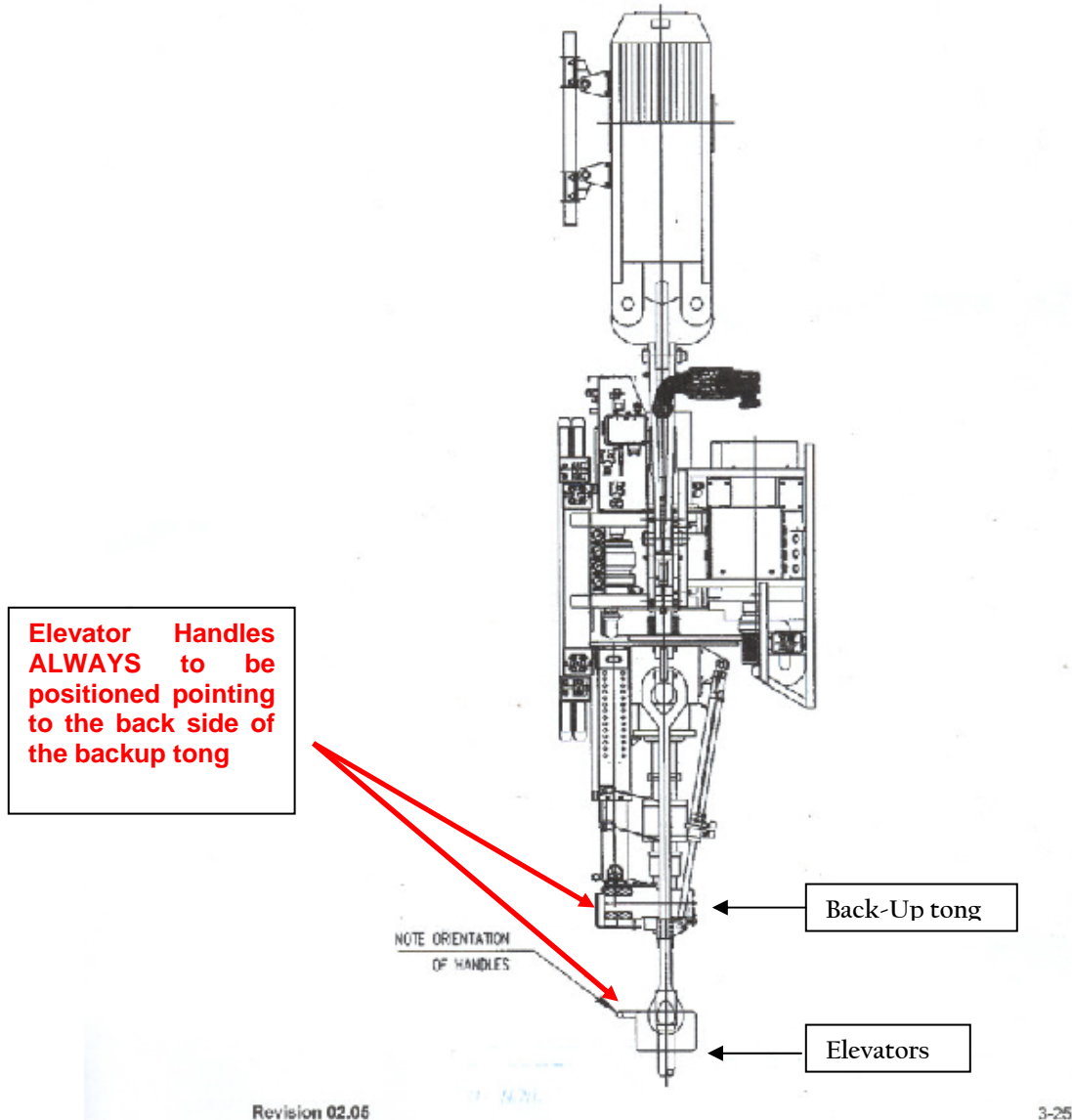
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Subsection 3A: Top Drive Operation

Elevator Arrangement

Figure 3.2



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