



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 08 – 13

IMPROPER ATTACHMENT OF SAFETY LINE RESULTS IN A DROPPED OBJECT

WHAT HAPPENED:

While finishing the pressure testing of the well head valve, the rig crew members were instructed to break out the saver sub, lower Internal Blowout Preventer (IBOP) and upper IBOP for Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) inspection. The Top-Drive System (TDS) saver sub was broken out using the TDS Pipe Handler. While attempting to break out the lower IBOP, it started to spin and after three attempts to break it out, the Driller and the Night Pusher decided to use the rig tong to break out the lower IBOP. The lower IBOP was gripped by the make-up tong and TDS applied reverse torque to the upper IBOP. The tong applied torque directly to the TDS track's lower attachments causing the TDS guide beam to come out from the lower tie back link causing it to turn and twist some guide beam components. The intermediate tieback's bolts were sheared and the intermediate tie back (Approx. 12kg) fell 10 meters to the rig floor. No one was injured.



The make – up tong was used to hold the lower IBOP while they torque the upper IBOP in the reverse direction



The intermediate tieback (Approx. 12kg) was fell from 10 meter height to the rig floor

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Night Pusher and Driller did not comply with the procedure for breaking out the IBOPs from the Top-Drive System.
- This was the first time to do the job with one tong which is a short cut for breaking out the lower and upper IBOPs.
- This shortcut was taken without authorization or advice from the Senior Toolpusher.
- Incorrect securing for the intermediate tieback was made on the mast beam with the securing wire wrapped around the intermediate tieback itself instead of being wrapped around the mast beam as was required to prevent a dropped object.
- Improper tieback allowed the tieback beam to fall from 10 meter

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

1. The pipe handler is to be used for breaking /making up the IBOP connection.
2. Make sure that the pipe handler clamp cylinder pressure is 2000 psi and the dies are in good condition.
3. In case of using rig tongs for breaking the IBOP or saver sub from the main shaft, it's important to use a pup joint in order to maintain it in the center and prevent the twisting motion.
4. Any non-routine job related to the TDS should be performed under the supervision of the Rig Senior Mechanic and Senior Toolpusher.

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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