



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 10 – 05

DROPPED OBJECTS RESULT IN TWO LTIs

WHAT HAPPENED:

Two lost time incidents occurred on separate occasions when employees were struck by falling rubber guides from Top Drive Back Up Wrenches (BUW).

Incident one: The rig had finished drilling the well and was in process of making a wiper trip. The driller attempted to break a stand at the top drive connection. The BUW was positioned incorrectly grabbing one part of cross-over sub. The torque boost was used to break the connection at the upper well control valve safety clamp. This caused the clamp to fall on top of the BUW. The driller proceeded to pick up the stand and to make the connection at the rotary table. The driller started pulling the drill string when the lower safety clamp on the bottom part of the BUW caught the stabbing rubber guides and the holding bolts were sheared off thus; allowing the rubber guides to fall 95 feet to the rig floor striking the IP.

Incident two: While pulling out of the hole to make up a new bottom-hole assembly, the Assistant Driller broke out the TD connection at monkeyboard. The driller then picked up the blocks to check to see that the top drive was screwed out of the stand. He then lowered the blocks hitting top of the drill pipe stand. The rubber guide's holding bolts sheared off allowing it to fall to the rig floor (approximately 100 feet). The IP was struck in the face and cheek.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- In both of these incidents there was a failure by the drillers to identify that the BUWs were positioned improperly.
- Poor communications occurred between the drillers and derrickmen in each incident.
- The Top Drive must not be set down on the pipe.
- Equipment such as the torque boost was improperly used to break a connection as stated in the first incident.
- The BUW cylinder adjust pins require proper calibration to avoid grabbing the crossover sub.
- The JSA was not adequate in identifying such hazards.

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

- Instructed rig supervisors that the Driller is responsible in his operation to see that the Top Drive is not set down on the pipe.
- Instructed drillers that they need to make sure the BUW is aligned in the center of the pipe as the TD is lowered.
- Instructed drillers to ensure that the cameras are operable and being used.
- Additional training may be required for the Driller to understand the operation of breaking out drill pipe from the Top Drive.
- There is simply no substitute for good communication between the Driller and the Derrickman.

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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