



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 10 – 29

NEAR MISS – DROPPED TONG WEIGHT

WHAT HAPPENED:

After changing out the rig floor drill pipe tongs, a rig crew member went up the derrick to remove weight from the tong counter-balance weight bucket. He removed two steel weights and tied them to the rig floor winch line with sash cord. While lowering the weight to the floor, the sash cord broke, allowing the weights to fall 60 feet to the rig floor.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Personnel didn't see the hazard of using sash cord to lower the weights rather than an approved lifting device such as a cable or basket.
- The hazard (dropping the weights) was realized and discussed in the pre-job safety meeting so the rig floor was kept clear of personnel during the entire process but the rig crew did not recognize the need for using a proper lifting device.

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

- Instructed rig personnel that the pre-job safety meeting should be used to spot all the hazards of doing tasks.
- Instructed rig personnel to look at each phase of the job to ensure that all hazards are identified.
- Instructed rig personnel that only approved lifting devices should be used when hoisting or lowering all types of equipment.

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
Copyright © 2005 International Association of Drilling Contractors All rights reserved.

Issued October 2010