



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 10 – 30

## HIGH POTENTIAL DROPPED OBJECT INCIDENTS RESULT IN TWO LTIs

### WHAT HAPPENED:

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

**Incident one:** The rig had finished drilling and was in the process of making a wiper trip. The driller attempted to break the stand at the top drive connection. The BUW was positioned incorrectly grabbing one part of the X-over sub. The torque boost was used to break the connection at upper well control valve safety clamp. This resulted in the safety clamp falling on top of the BUW. The driller proceeded to pick up the stand and make made up the connection at the rotary table. As the driller started pulling the drill string, the lower safety clamp resting on the bottom part of the BUW caught the stabbing rubber guides and sheared the holding bolts which resulted in rubber guides falling 95 feet to floor striking injured person.

**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 the monkey board. He then picked up the blocks to check to see that the top drive was screwed out of the stand. He then lowered the blocks which hit the top of the stand. The rubber guide's holding bolts sheared off and the rubber guides fell to the rig floor approximately 100 feet. The injured person was struck in the face and cheek.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

In both of these incidents it was noted that there was a failure by the crew to identify that the BUWs were positioned improperly. Poor communications occurred between drillers and derrickmen in each incident. The Top Drive must not be set down on the pipe. The torque boost was improperly used to break a connection as stated in the first incident. The BUW cylinder adjustment 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:

- The driller is responsible in his operation to see that the Top Drive is not set down on the pipe.
- The driller needs to make sure the BUW is aligned in the center to the pipe as the TD is lowered.
- The driller needs to make sure that the monkey board cameras are operable and 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.**

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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