



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 01-03

## RIG FLOOR WINCH INCIDENT

### WHAT HAPPENED:

One rig floor winch had been previously used by an individual to lower lift caps down the Pipe Ramp to the Catwalk. Another employee came along and attempted to retrieve this hoist line from the Catwalk. While attempting to retrieve the winch line, the individual mistakenly operated the control on the wrong drill floor winch. The winch he activated was tied off to a TIW valve. When this hoist was activated, the TIW valve was lifted clear of its storage rack and swung across the drill floor, striking and injuring another employee.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

This incident was caused by lack of attention and communication between winch operators. The employee picked up on the one winch when he intended to pick up on the other. This winch was tied off to a TIW valve that was in its storage rack on the rig floor causing the TIW valve to swing striking the injured employee.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Hold a Pre-Job Safety Meeting and review JSAs for the type of operations at hand. If necessary, develop a JSA for the operation.
- Designated winch operators should be trained and have adequate understanding of rigging and hoisting equipment / material.
- Consider color coding winches and cable eye(s) for easier recognition by operators. For example, when there are multiple winches on the rig floor, paint the winch controls and cable eye of one winch - red, and the winch controls and cable eye of the other winch blue, etc.
- Before hoisting a winch line verify that the live end of the cable is the one intended to be hoisted. This live end of winch line should be attended by an individual.
- To determine where the cable is tied off, pull on it at the winch see if the end you intend to pickup moves. If it does not move, you have the wrong winch.
- Winch cables not in use should not be left tied to equipment. There should be designated tie-off points for winch cables when not in use. This may be the base of the winch, near the V-Door, or other location as specified by your winch operating procedures.
- Emphasize communication between employees. If the air winch operation changes, a stopping point should be used to discuss the next type of operation.

For additional information, refer to the IADC Accident Prevention Guide Section 3.7.

**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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