



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 22

NEAR MISS – DERRICKMAN FELL FROM BOARD

WHAT HAPPENED:

A near miss incident occurred on a rig while the crew was tripping pipe into the hole. The Derrickman stepped onto the toe board and the board broke off, allowing the Derrickman to drop. Fortunately, his safety harness and lanyard arrested his fall and he was not injured. In addition, the safety chain on the toe board kept it from falling to the floor below. Inspection of the toe board revealed a bad weld on the toe board hinge had given way, allowing the toe board to collapse.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Defective weld on the toe board hinge.
2. Hinge was not inspected at the start of the job.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company shared the following with their rig crews:

This incident was significant and emphasizes several areas of discussion:

1. **Safety equipment (Personal Protective Equipment – PPE):** The Derrickman was wearing his safety harness and was properly tied off with his safety lanyard while working in the Derrick. All of his equipment performed as it was designed, and he was not injured as a result. The importance of being 100% tied off at all time while working in the Derrick can not be overemphasized.
2. **Equipment inspection:** The hinge weld on the toe board was defective and “perhaps” this could have been identified with closer inspection. Remember always inspect the equipment you will be working with and on each and every tour. Don’t trust your safety to equipment you have not inspected. This inspection also includes your PPE. Always inspect your harness and lanyard before you work in an elevated location.
3. **Safety chains:** The safety chain on the toe board worked as designed and kept the board from falling. Always check the safety chains, cables, etc. on overhead equipment (lights, board fingers, etc.) when making routine derrick inspections.

This notice should be posted at all rigs and discussed during each tours regularly scheduled safety meeting.

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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