



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 06 – 02

## SAFETY RETRACTING LIFELINE BLOCKS AND ROTATING MACHINERY

### WHAT HAPPENED:

Recently, an employee was fatally injured due to interference between his fall protection equipment and the rotating head atop the annular Blowout Preventer (BOP). Specifically, the employee hooked the Safety Retracting Lifeline (SRL) to his harness and walked laterally across an elevated catwalk to a location where the rotating control device (rotating head) was between the employee and the anchor point of the SRL block. This apparently allowed the line to become entangled in the rotating control device (see photograph).

### WHAT CAUSED IT:



On this model of rotating control device, the entire clamp assembly rotates along with the kelly. SRL line apparently became entangled in some portion of the clamp assembly.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company issued the following to rig personnel:

1. Personnel shall maintain a 6 ft (2 meter) radius from the BOPs at all times while the rotary is engaged (rotating). If maintenance activities require access to the BOPs, the rotary shall be disengaged and locked out.
2. All Rig Managers shall review with crews general precautions regarding the use of SRL blocks. Special emphasis should be placed on directing personnel to not move laterally away from the overhead anchor point.
3. Some models of rotating control devices are designed such that there are no external rotating parts. Use of these devices is encouraged when possible. If a rotating control device with external rotating parts is employed, barricading shall be installed to ensure personnel maintain a safe distance during operation.

**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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