



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 01-04

## SIDE-DOOR COLLAR ELEVATORS DROPS CASING JOINT

### WHAT HAPPENED:

The rig crew was picking up 4-1/2 inch casing and running into the hole. The Driller, Motorman and Tong Operator were working the floor, latching the elevators, hoisting the casing and spinning in the joints. The Floorman who was working on the catwalk hooked the winch to the casing sling and followed the joint as it was lifted to the rig floor. He removed the winch line and sling from the joint of casing and proceeded down the V-door to hook the next joint. The elevators were installed on the casing joint resting on the V-door and the safety pin was inserted. The Driller hoisted the blocks raising the joint of casing, which was approximately 40 feet long. As the pin end of the casing approached the bottom of the V-door and the joint neared the vertical position, it fell through the elevators. The casing hit the top of the V-door, slid down to the catwalk, and hit the Floorman who was bent over with his back towards the rig floor attaching the sling to the next joint of casing. The worker was struck in the lower back by the casing joint and was knocked face first into the pipe tub. The worker was transported to the hospital with a lower back injury.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

After the incident, the blocks were lowered and the elevators were found to be in the open position with the safety pin secured. Further investigation identified that the side door casing elevator had received a number of safety alerts associated with improper latching concerns. One alert recommended a retrofit safety pin as was done with the elevators in use. The elevators were to be latched then the pin inserted. Later it was determined that the safety pin could be inserted even though the elevators were not properly latched and they could come open with the safety pin in place. Later all of these types of side door elevators were recalled and were to be retrofitted with a new safety latch lock pin kit. This kit would not allow the pin to be inserted if the elevators were not fully latched.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Personnel must be aware of overhead loads being raised. In addition, workers are not to be positioned on the V-door stairs while loads are being raised or lowered, to or from the rig floor.
- A hazard assessment and JSA should be conducted for these operations and the JSA reviewed prior to beginning the task.
- The worker closing the elevator latch must double-check to make sure that they are, in fact, fully latched. If the elevators are not latched correctly, the worker must immediately signal the Driller to stop.
- All rig owned side door elevators are to be inspected to ensure that they have the appropriate retrofit kits installed. (Check with the manufacturer.)
- All third party equipment brought to the rig should have documentation that the appropriate retrofit has been installed.
- All hoisting elevators, rig and third party must be inspected prior to putting into service. Inspections should be incorporated into the pre-job safety meeting.
- The OIM (Toolpusher) should check all equipment alerts/bulletins to ensure that the most current are available at the rig and all equipment has been retrofitted to the latest alerts/bulletins.

**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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