



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01-12

NEAR MISS DROPPED BUNDLE OF DRILL PIPE

WHAT HAPPENED:

A bundle of new 3-1/2" drill pipe was being lifted by crane from a workboat to a rig's main deck. There were nine joints of pipe in the bundle measuring approximately 30' in length. The crane rigging consisted of a 10' spreader bar with a 30' single leg wire rope cable sling on each end. Each sling was single wrapped around the bundle on each end and then attached to itself with a shackle. There was a slight angle on the sling lines that made up the difference between the length of the spreader bar and that of the tubulars. Once the load swung clear of the boat, one of the cable slings slipped toward the center of the load, causing the load to become unbalanced and eventually allowed the whole bundle of 3 1/2" drill pipe to shift and slip out of the rigging. The drill pipe fell to the sea bottom. No injuries resulted.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The personnel involved mistakenly believed that one wrap of the cable sling around the bundle of drill pipe was an acceptable rigging practice.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- A Job Safety Analysis [JSA] for tasks such as off loading pipe from a vessel should be completed.
- Rigging Procedures should be reviewed to ensure that the "Double Wrapping" procedure for tying onto tubulars in place.
- JSA's that involve lifting tubulars should be reviewed and updated to insure that proper rigging procedures are included.
- JSAs are living documents and personnel should understand that even though jobs have been done numerous times in the past, it is possible that not all the hazards have been identified. It is also possible that the uniqueness of the current task may create different hazards that have not been recognized!

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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