



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01 – 38

OVERHEAD POWER - LINE CONTACT

WHAT HAPPENED:

A D6C Side-boom was being used to load nine lengths of pipe onto the back of a crew cab deck when contact was made with a 25,000 volt energized power line. Two laborers received some degree of electrical shock. Employees who received electrical shock were transported to hospital, assessed and released. Work-site activity was shut down, the electric company, operator and contractor company management were notified.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Investigation found deficiencies in the following areas:

- Management systems – No Job Safety Analysis developed for this task and no pre-job Safety Meeting was documented.
- Codes of practice were not followed.
- Training – Codes of practice (working near power lines) and hazard assessment process were not well understood.
- Operator unfamiliar with his machine.
- Congestion and narrow right-of-way.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

As a result of the investigation and the incident review held by Operator and the contract company, the following corrective actions were identified.

- A Job Safety Analysis is to be developed and reviewed prior to handling tubulars near power lines.
- Pre-Job Safety Meeting is to be held before working close to power lines.
- Job Safety Analysis development training and “Leadership For Safety Excellence” training was provided to superintendents and foremen.
- Electric company was scheduled to provide training to all employees on power line safety.
- A review of the company’s Code of Practice, re: working around power lines to ensure that it meets regulatory and company requirements, was conducted.
- Height of all booms to be stenciled on all booms in a location visible to the operator
- Remainder of power lines in the field to be assessed to determine height, voltage, clearance etc.
- No activity will be conducted inside the 7 meter-danger zone unless a task specific Safety Meeting is held and documented.

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.
