



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 02

INATTENTION ALLOWS TRAVELING BLOCK TO STRIKE CROWN

WHAT HAPPENED:

While pulling and standing back 2 3/8" tubing on a truck mounted rig, the rig operator activated the traveling block and caused it to contact the crown of the derrick. The contact severed the drill line causing the block, the elevator links, and the tubing elevators to fall to the rig floor. The traveling block contacted the rod basket and tubing board prior to striking the tongs and landing on the rig floor. Upon impact with the floor, 2400' of 2 3/8" tubing parted and fell into the well. The floor fell in a vertical position parallel to the derrick footing between the blowout preventers and the base section of the rig. The traveling block came to rest between the work floor and the derrick footing. The well was immediately secured. Contract employees were able to quickly evacuate the rig floor prior to the contact.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- 1.) Inattention: The operator (driller) was watching the floorman re-adjust the chain used to position the slips and was not paying attention to his job/task.
- 2.) Inexperience: One floorman had one month and the other had three month's experience. The derrickman had nine months experience.
- 3.) Two tasks performed at one time:
 - a) Adjusting slips
 - b) Pulling tubing
- 4.) Communication: No communication was made between the floorman and the operator (driller) when multiple tasks were being performed.

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

- Installed automatic crown safety devices on their rigs.
- All employees were coached in utilizing proper communication, safety & risk associated with multi-task operations and concentrating on their specific task.
- A safety meeting was held with all rigs to communicate the incident.

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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