



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 04

DROPPED OBJECT IN THE DERRICK

WHAT HAPPENED:

The main body of a snatch block located in the derrick between the monkey board and rig floor separated from its swivel and fell to the rig floor. No injuries were sustained in this incident.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The snatch block side plate had been left open while hanging in the derrick.

The retaining lock nut appeared to have backed out of the threaded retainer that holds the main body of the block to the swivel. Since the side plate had been left unsecured, there was nothing to keep the snatch block from falling when the retaining lock nut backed off.

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

- Inspect snatch blocks to ensure that the retaining nut is secured in position by having the threads dimpled at three points on the threaded portion of the swivel-securing pin. This dimpling prevents the lock nut from backing off the threaded portion of the swivel pin.
- The side plate of the snatch block is not to be left open at any time. It should be closed while in use and after every use.

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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