



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 10

CASING INCIDENT RESULTS IN LTI

WHAT HAPPENED:

Recently, a casing crew was running a string of 9 5/8" casing, with the assistance of a third party company's Lay-down Unit. As a joint of casing being brought to the drill floor in the lay-down trough reached the V-door, the upper section of the lay-down pole suddenly sheared off. The lay-down pole stands in the mouse hole and is used to anchor the fast line cable and lay-down trough with a cable and sheave attached to the top of the lay-down pole. The lay-down pole sheared at the point where the steel base plate, used to maintain proper working height, was attached to the pole.

When the lay-down pole sheared off the 9'-6" section of the lay-down pole above the base plate along with the lay-down trough and the joint of casing still in the trough flew out the V-door opening, down the V-door ramp, onto the Catwalk and came to rest underneath the pipe rack beside the catwalk.

When the pole sheared in half, the base plate separated from the pole and struck the casing crewman who was standing nearest the lay-down pole. The individual was hit in the upper part of his right pelvic section and thrown backward causing him to strike his head and back on the drill pipe that was racked back in the derrick. The injured individual was transported to a hospital where he was examined and X-Rays revealed his right pelvic section had been fractured.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The investigation revealed that the lay-down pole had signs of excess external corrosion as well as internal stress and fatigue cracks. It was also determined that the safety clamp being used was improperly placed above the lay-down pole base plate, rather than at floor level over the mouse hole. It was found that there were no records of inspection for fatigue using Ultra-Violet Testing.

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

- Established a procedure that required Preventative Maintenance records indicating that Ultra-Violet Testing was recently completed on lay-down poles that were leased or contracted for.
- Informed providers of leased lay-down equipment and lay-down contractors that Preventative Maintenance that included regular Ultra-Violet Testing of the lay-down pole and inspection of the base plate is required.
- The casing company re-checked their lay-down poles to ensure safety of equipment and personnel.
- Established a procedure and requirement to ensure that all personnel rigging up lay-down equipment know the proper placement of the safety clamp.

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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