



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 13

FAILURE TO WEAR FALL PROTECTION RESULTS IN A FATALITY

WHAT HAPPENED:

An employee was working on a suspended walkway with handrails, located under the drill floor. While in the process of installing the bolts in the flange between the bell nipple and the riser spool above the BOP he fell outward of the walkway striking the deck below, and then falling into the water. The employee was installing the bolt furthest away from the walkway and was attempting to install the nut on the bolt. It is believed he positioned himself between the top and middle handrails in order to reach the bolt and start the nut. At this point his entire upper body would have been outside the handrails.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The employee was not wearing a safety harness. The employee had been working on the BOP stack, wearing a full body harness shortly before the incident occurred, but had removed his safety harness and left it on the platform deck.

- Failure to properly understand the hazard involved in working outside the safety barrier (handrail).
- Failure to wear the proper fall protection. In this case a full body harness attached to a self-retracting lifeline.

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

- Upper management re-emphasized the importance of following proper procedure emphasizing job safety analysis relative to fall protection to all personnel.
- Fall Protection seminars were held for all members of operational management.
- Safety & Training personnel attended train-the-trainer courses in fall protection in order to function as instructors. All rig crews will attend this training.
- A new (more comfortable) style of full body harness has been placed on some rigs as a test.

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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