



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 14

INCIDENT INVOLVING LINK-TILT AND ELEVATORS

WHAT HAPPENED:

While pulling out of the hole with 3½” drill pipe, the Driller engaged the Top Drive link tilt and the employee unlatched the elevators and was placing the pipe in derrick finger. Without warning, the link tilt inadvertently kicked out past the intermediate stops. The elevators struck employee’s middle finger on his left hand.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The intermediate stop release was tied to the elevator bail with a rope. Over a period of time, the rope loosened and slid down the bail. Because the rope was tied to the bail, enough tension was put on the rope to partially disengage the stops. When the pressure built up enough in the link tilt mechanism, the elevators were allowed to kick out past the partially disengaged stops.

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

- Immediately removed the rope from the intermediate stop release.
- Installed a rope with a snap hook on the existing sling. This is to be done for each function of the link tilt and removed prior to the block being raised.
- Modified the JSA for this job to reflect this change.

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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