



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 27

TOP DRIVE STRIKES JOINT OF TUBING RESULTING IN A NEAR MISS

WHAT HAPPENED:

A drilling crew in was in the process of running 4 1/2" tubing. A joint of tubing was being made up in the rotary, while another joint was being hoisted in from the V-Door. As the joint of tubing from the V-Door was being moved toward the mouse hole, the rig floor crewman missed the mouse hole opening as the air hoist was being lowered. The joint of tubing on the air hoist laid over toward and under the descending top drive. The top drive set down on the tubing causing the tubing joint to shoot across the rig floor. There was damage to the tubing joint; however, no injury to personnel occurred.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

This incident resulted from what's called "simultaneous operations", meaning that two or more activities are being performed at the same time. The potential for an incident here was created when the top drive was lowered at the same time the tubing was being brought in toward the rotary table.

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

Informed their crews the following:

Injuries can happen when a joint of pipe gets caught under the descending pipe handling equipment. Aside from the injury potential, the hoisting line could be damaged along with the top drive.

Step one - to prevent this kind of incident from happening is to hold a pre-job safety meeting prior to picking up pipe to discuss the job, hazards and where the process might go wrong.

Step two - before any downward movement of the blocks occurs, the driller must make sure that nothing is happening on the rig floor that could potentially cause a problem. An option in this situation was to use a pickup line so that the driller had complete control of pipe entering the rig floor area and going in the hole.

Drilling operations have experienced previous incidents where the block or block/top drive had contacted the monkey board, tubulars, stabbing board, hoisting equipment or even hoisted personnel. *Note: A complete lockout/tagout of the drawworks and rotary is necessary when personnel are hoisted.*

Simultaneous operations should trigger a pre-job meeting and a discussion among the all affected personnel about how one operation can impact another. Remember, what can go wrong will go wrong if you don't plan for the "what if" possibilities.

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.
