



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 28

WINCH DRUM LINE SLACK RESULTS IN AN LTI

WHAT HAPPENED:

While rigging down, the derrick (mast) had been removed from the rig floor and placed on the pipe racks. A gin truck winch line was attached to the back A-leg to support its weight while the pins were removed from the support brace so that it could be lowered for transportation. As the driller reached in to remove the top pin, a small amount of trapped slack on the winch drum was released and allowed the A-leg to unexpectedly shift position. The driller's right little finger was caught between the support brace and A-leg, resulting in a mashed finger which became an LTI.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Failure to straighten (tightly wind) the line on the truck's winch drum prior to suspending the load allowed an uncontrolled movement of the A-leg during this operation.

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

- A full investigation of the accident was conducted and documented by the drilling superintendent and management. Discussions and operational reviews with supervisors and involved parties identified risks and procedures to avoid a repeat of the incident. This documentation was shared with all company rigs and personnel immediately.
- A JSA was prepared for the mandatory straightening of winch lines so that no slack is present on the drum during the handling of loads.
- Gin poles are to be carefully centered above all loads prior to lifting to minimize the potential for lateral load movement during handling.
- A JSA was prepared for proper body position and hand placement during removal of pins while handling of suspended loads to ensure that the load is stable prior to pin removal and that the body and hands are clear of potential injury.

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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