



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 40

ROUSTABOUT ON TOP OF PIPE ON RACK RESULTS IN AN LTI

WHAT HAPPENED:

While laying down the BHA preparing for an upcoming casing job, two roustabouts were working the catwalk receiving the tubulars laid down off the drill floor. A roustabout was positioned on each end of a drill collar while it was on the catwalk. They proceeded to sling up the tubular for lifting onto the pipe rack. Once they had attached a sling & tag line on each end, the roustabout nearest the V-Door gave the crane operator the signal to hoist up the load. The tubular was hoisted and spotted onto the pipe rack with both roustabouts utilizing the tag lines to position the load. Both roustabouts scaled the pipe rack to release the rigging on the tubular and prepared for their next lift.

The roustabout on the drill floor end of the pipe rack had released his rigging and observed his co-worker do the same and they both climbed down off the pipe rack on their respected ends. When the roustabout on the drill floor end of the pipe rack reached the main deck he signaled the crane operator to hoist up and slew over atop the catwalk, and then turned to walk that way in preparation for their next lift.

The roustabout on the bow end noticed that the tag line on his rigging was underneath the tubular and without signaling the crane operator to stop, he quickly ascended the pipe rack and straddled the tubular they had just laid down, and attempted to remove the tag line.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The crane operator's view was obstructed by a wire line unit and he did not see the roustabout climb back up. Neither the crane operator nor the signalman knew that the other roustabout had gone back onto the pipe rack. As the crane operator lifted the slings, the tag line pulled out from under the tubular and caused the drill collar to roll on top of the roustabout's foot and ankle resulting in a broken ankle and a lost time incident. Lastly, with the signalman turning away from the operation to move on to the next lift, it appears that these personnel were in a hurry.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company issued the following instructions to all rig personnel:

- Rigging is to be removed by hand on all lifts when completed.
- Personnel in charge of the lift must not let the crane operator pull the slings and tag lines out from under the loads.
- The signalman must watch the whole operation until everything (everyone) is clear and must maintain visual contact with his team members, as well as the crane operator.
- The signalman must never turn away from the operation before it is completed.
- Anytime the view of the crane operator or even an air hoist operator is obstructed, that fact must be communicated to all personnel involved.
- Personnel involved in a move must be trained to understand that nothing is done without communicating it to the signalman or crane operator. The chances for injury are too great and too serious.
- Working too fast must be avoided at all costs.

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.