



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 02 – 41

## IMPROPER STORAGE OF PIPE ON RACKS RESULTS IN AN LTI

### WHAT HAPPENED:

Twenty five joints of 5” drill pipe were being picked up from the pipe rack in the yard and being sent to a rig. The drill pipe along with HW pipe were stored on the pipe racks in a heap. Eight joints of pipe were removed and the second set was in the process of being picked up from the rack. The forklift being used had 4 joints of pipe lying on the forks with a fifth joint that was only on one fork. The roustabout assisting in the task pushed the fifth joint toward the pipe rack to get it off the fork. After accomplishing this he positioned himself on top of the pipe on the rack, causing the pipe to roll forward and trap his foot between two joints. He suffered a fracture to his leg.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

The mixture of pipe on the rack had not been stored correctly (in a heap). Measures should have been taken to ensure joints could be safely retrieved from the pipe rack. The roustabout was permitted stand on the pipe on the rack.

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

### Instructed all Operations Personnel:

- All pipe on pipe racks and other material/equipment should be inspected for proper storage.
- Pipe should be easily accessible and should be easily retrievable by personnel.
- Pipe should also be stacked in the appropriate manner.
- Supervisors shall rectify unsafe conditions prior to starting up jobs by performing a JSA with the crew to perform the task.
- A safety meeting shall be held on each rig and yard to ensure all employees are aware of the dangers of this particular task.
- It is also advisable to have forklift operators undertake some form of competency training\* if available.
- More communication should be undertaken between the operators & those assisting him.
- Instructed personnel to review Rig Management System documents on:

**Operations Document - Care and Handling of Drill Pipe/Collars**

**HSE Document- Job Safety Analysis**

**HSE Document - Forklift Use**

\*IADC Note: Some regulatory jurisdictions require Fork Lift Truck Operator Certification. Also, reference IADC Accident Prevention Reference Guide Section 9 Forklift Operations.

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**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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