



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 45

STABBING BOARD INCIDENT RESULTS IN AN LTI

WHAT HAPPENED:

An incident occurred when the stabbing board fell, resulting in a fractured ankle. The Assistant Driller (AD) sent a Floorhand up to the stabbing board to check the prep work on the welds for the Non Destructive Inspection. The Floorhand entered the stabbing board which was not in its properly stored location and attempted to lower the stabbing board, but was unsuccessful. The AD went up to the stabbing board to assist the Floorhand in lowering the stabbing board. The AD manually disengaged the safety lock and the Floorhand opened the “dogs” so the stabbing board could be lowered. The AD then proceeded to lower the stabbing board. While lowering the stabbing board, the lifting cable parted and dropping the stabbing board 8’ – 10’ feet. The Floorhand was properly secured with a full body harness attached to a safety retracting lifeline, that was located at the top of the stabbing board frame work and anchored to the Derrick structure. The Floorhand’s fall was arrested by the safety retracting lifeline, but he was struck by the framework as the board descended, which resulted in a first aid case. The AD was wearing a full body harness, but had attached the safety lanyard to the stabbing board. The AD fell with the stabbing board and received a fractured ankle.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

No pre-job meeting was conducted between the AD and Floorhand and the weight of the stabbing board and two employees was not evaluated.. The weight of two employees on the stabbing board combined with the weight of the board exceeded the safe working load (1,500 lbs) of the stabbing board assembly. The AD was not utilizing proper fall protection per company policy and secondary fall protection had been removed. Although it is not necessary to disengage the primary safety device to lower the stabbing board, it had been manually disengaged and thus prevented the primary safety device from working properly.

It was also found that neither the Chief Engineer nor Mechanic was notified of the mechanical problems with the stabbing board. Although in use only five months, the cable showed unusual wear at the point where it parted.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company instructed operations personnel to:

- Ensure personnel understand the importance of not securing themselves to the stabbing board, or to any equipment that has the potential to fall. Additionally, equipment and procedures must be in place to prevent potential falling equipment from striking anyone.
- Create a separate JSA for stabbing board inspection/work. Include the use of safety retracting lifelines instead of lanyard.
- The stabbing board JSA must be reviewed prior to use.
- Identify the Safe Working Load for the stabbing board and include it in the Master JSA.
- Install a sign at the stabbing board entrance that states, “Safety Retracting Lifeline” required while working on stabbing board.
- Stabbing boards with Cable Climber type devices must renew cables annually.
- Stabbing boards must be stored with weight off the winch or hoist.

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.
